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Print union ends its year-long battle

Sogat pulls out of Wapping dispute

By Tim Jones

Britain's biggest print union, Sogat '82, decided yesterday to end its year-long dispute with News International. The decision was taken by 23 votes to nine at a stormy special meeting of the union's national executive committee.

The vote confirmed the continued isolation of the London-based union members, who had been spurned by a majority of their colleagues - they refused to pay a special levy in order to support them.

Seven of the nine who voted yesterday for a continuation of the dispute were from London branches of the union.

Sogat began its dispute with the company after 4,012 of its members employed by the company went on strike over the issue of jobs for life, and were dismissed.

Since then, 1,466 members of the union have applied for and received termination payments of up to £30,000.

Last night, Mr Bill O'Neill, the company's managing director, released a statement from Mr Rupert Murdoch, the chairman. It said: "This has been a sad and unnecessary strike. The tragedy has been drawn out for 13 months despite two serious attempts by the company to bring it to an end, including an offer of a

printing plant, equipment and cash. It is in everyone's interest that it ends now."

Mr O'Neill said: "We are considering Miss Brenda Dean's statement, but wish to say tonight that News International will not now be going ahead with contempt proceedings."

The decision by Sogat leaves the National Graphical Association, the other main

vacancies which occurred in our plants at Wapping and Glasgow," the company said.

Since the dispute started, about 20 union members have died and their widows will be offered double the termination terms.

Miss Brenda Dean, Sogat general secretary, and her executive took the decision after legal advisers had informed the union that News

International, the total assets of the union had been reduced by more than 50 per cent.

Last night Miss Dean said: "This has been a long and bitter dispute. It is a disgrace to our so-called democracy that working people can be sacked and treated in the way that our members were at News International."

In spite of the union's decision, some hard-line activists in the London machine branch may attempt to continue the dispute.

When the union's executive met yesterday, it knew it was bound in any event by a unanimous decision taken at its biennial delegate council last year, which said the union must not risk having its assets re-sequestered.

The decision to stop the action almost certainly signals the end of one of the most bitter disputes in the turbulent history of Fleet Street print unions.

Until News International moved to Wapping in January 1986, print unions had been regarded as virtually invincible because of their power over the means of production.

But when the first issues of *The Times* rolled off the presses at the new plant, Miss Dean knew that the dispute seemed lost.

The dispute has been bitter and bloody, with 1,471 people arrested, and 563 police officers and scores of demonstrators injured.

Year at Wapping, page 2
Leading article, page 13

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, said last night that he was delighted by the Sogat decision which was good news for all the residents in the area. He said that he hoped the National Graphical Association would follow suit and that life could return to normal in Wapping as soon as possible. Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, declined to comment but a Labour party spokesman said: "The national executive committee is likely to consider the position now in light of the Sogat vote."

union involved, isolated. Mr Tony Doherty, its general secretary, admitted his union would find it difficult to sustain its action without Sogat. The NGA executive meets today to consider its position.

Following Sogat's decision, News International has decided to re-open for one month - until March 10 - its offer of termination payments of four weeks' pay for every year of service to the 2,546 members who did not accept the original offer.

"Those Sogat members who accept this payment would, in future, be open for consideration by us to fill any

international was likely to succeed in a High Court action for contempt. This concerned an order issued against Sogat last summer, banning mass picketing outside the new plant at Wapping, east London.

According to Miss Dean, the claim for damages could have amounted to a minimum of £1.5 million and might have risen to more than £3 million. She said this could wipe the union off the map, as it would need to sell its head office and its two convalescent homes.

Her executive was told yesterday that, without considering the claim for seque-

stration, the total assets of the union had been reduced by more than 50 per cent.

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Sir Michael Havers: advised to have a thorough rest

Attorney-General ordered to rest

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, who is at the centre of the Project Zircon satellite secrets controversy, is to take a "thorough rest" from his official duties, it was announced yesterday.

Sir Michael, who told the Prime Minister on Wednesday that his doctors had advised him to have a thorough rest, is expected to be away for several weeks.

There was considerable sympathy among ministers for Sir Michael, aged 63, who had a heart by-pass operation two years ago. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor-General, will deputise for him in his absence.

Ministers rejected suggestions that there were political reasons, including a threatened resignation, for Sir Michael's temporary absence. He has already announced his intention to retire from the Commons at the next general election.

Sir Michael said yesterday: "I was told to avoid stress but, in my job, how can you avoid stress? If I was a bank clerk, it would be much easier."

The role of Attorney-General, which Sir Michael has held for a record eight years, requires him to be both an independent legal adviser and a politician.

A stickler for legal proprieties, he was so incensed at the leaking of a letter from the Solicitor-General by the Department of Trade and Industry during the Westland affair that he threatened to send the police into 10 Downing Street if the Government did not mount an inquiry.

He refused to be made a scapegoat for the dispute over the handling of the Peter

David Watt 12

Wright spy book case in Australia and forced Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, to correct earlier evidence.

Sir Michael authorized the Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate the Zircon satellite affair to see if an offence had been committed under the Official Secrets Act. But since then there have been revelations of contacts between Sir Michael and Mr Duncan Campbell, the *New Statesman* journalist who made the film banned by the BBC.

In a Commons reply on Wednesday, Sir Michael admitted that he had met Mr Campbell twice last summer, but denied they had discussed the Zircon project.

£7m for Aids 'not enough'

By Jill Sherman

The Government's £7 million allocation to health authorities for the treatment and counselling of Aids patients was condemned as inadequate by health authorities yesterday.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, announced that only three regional health authorities would get the new money, all in the London area. Regions elsewhere would have to rely on existing budgets.

Mr Fowler said the money had been calculated on actual and forecasted cases of Aids in each of the three regions. But last night the region which deals with most of the country's Aids cases said the money was not nearly enough.

North West Thames regional health authority, which has handled 180 cases, put in a bid for £8 million for extra resources next year. Yesterday it was told it would receive only £2.5 million.

Mr Fowler admitted yesterday that he would be expecting health authorities to find up to £26 million out of their own resources to treat Aids patients.

In the present financial year an estimated £12 to £18 million will have been spent of which £3 million was from central funding, Mr Fowler said. He argued that resources announced for regional health authorities last December would be expected to cover most of the extra cost to the remaining eleven regions who all put in extra bids for money.

Mr Fowler also announced an extra £40 million to develop transplant services and other supra-regional specialties together with £1 million to appoint 100 additional consultants.

Heart transplants on children were given government backing yesterday with an allocation of £151,000 to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. The hospital, which hopes to start its programme in May, has been raising private funds since September. It is to team up with Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, already internationally known for adult heart transplants, and one of the existing three centrally funded heart transplant centres.

'Waite shot' report in Hamburg

From John England Bonn

Mr Terry Waite has been shot and critically wounded while trying to escape from his kidnappers in Lebanon, a West German newspaper said last night.

The popular daily, *Bild*, said a guard fired at Mr Waite with a machine-pistol as he tried to flee from the room in which he was being held. But the paper, which leaked the story ahead of publication today, could not detail Mr Waite's injuries or say when or where the shooting took place.

Bild quoted security circles in Beirut as the source for its story. A news editor on the paper in Hamburg said: "The story came from one of our correspondents in Beirut, but we have no further details."

● No corroborations: Lambeth Palace and the Foreign Office said last night they had received no information to corroborate the report that Mr Waite had been shot (Nicholas Beeston writes).

A spokeswoman for the palace said: "We have been concentrating our efforts on locating Mr Waite, but we have had consistent reassurances from our contacts that he is safe and well."

● Sources familiar with the circumstances of Mr Waite's disappearance said they had no information about the alleged shooting.

It is believed that Mr Waite's very cautious and calm approach to his mediation work would make it unlikely that he would try something as bold as an escape attempt.

"The problem is that the kidnappers holding him are not normal people - they are trigger-happy criminals," one source familiar with the situation in Lebanon said.

Hostage tension, page 6
Roger Scruton, page 12

Drug ring 'broken' by Spain

Six Britons, five men and one woman, appeared in court yesterday after the seizure of half a ton of cannabis resin and eight gallons of refined "hash oil" on a Spanish beach on Monday.

Spanish police believe they have broken a drugs ring that smuggled cannabis from Morocco to Europe and Britain. Several boats and luxury cars have been impounded. Page 2

Feud escalates

The killing of a man whose body was found near the Irish border yesterday was the latest incident in the escalating feud within the Irish National Liberation Army. Page 2

Bitter Carter

Six years after she left the White House, Rosalynn Carter talks exclusively to *The Times* about her bitterness towards the Reagans, why she wants husband Jimmy to run for the Presidency again, and why she wanted to run for the Senate. Page 11

King's Fund

Today is the 90th anniversary of the King's Fund, a charity that works for the nation's health services. A Special Report looks at its progress. Pages 16, 17

Times Business

Lloyd's offer

Four working members of the ruling council of Lloyd's have offered to resign to speed the main constitutional change - a reduction from 12 to 16 working council members - recommended in Sir Patrick Neill's report on the insurance market. Page 21

Times Sport

Gala match

The Football League's centenary celebrations will begin with a dinner for 1,000 guests and a game between the Football League and the Rest of the World. Page 34

Portfolio Gold

● One of the winners in yesterday's Times Portfolio Gold competition has won before. Two other readers share the prize of £4,000. Details, page 3. ● Portfolio list, page 25.

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Democrats warn Reagan of halt to nuclear test funds

From Michael Haynes, Washington

As the Soviet Union yesterday announced it was ending its nuclear test moratorium, senior Democrats warned that they will cut off funds for all but the smallest American nuclear tests if the Reagan Administration continues with its testing programme without restriction.

Their move follows a non-binding resolution by the Democratic caucus in the House of Representatives on Tuesday deploring the underground blast in Nevada, which has prompted the Soviet Union to announce an end to its 18-month moratorium on nuclear tests.

The two senior Democrats who sponsored the move, Representatives Richard Gephardt of Missouri, a possible presidential contender, and Patricia Schroeder of Colorado, said the House would translate the resolution into legislation next year. They expected the Senate to follow suit.

In Moscow yesterday, Mr Yevgeny Primakov, a Deputy Foreign Minister, announced that because of the US blast, the first in 1987, the Soviet Union would resume its underground testing.

Flanked by two senior institute heads from the Soviet Academy of Science, he said the US test was a "cynical act", and the resumption of Soviet testing had been dictated by security interests.

"By this provocative step, the American Administration has rejected the example of the

mayed at the Democrats' attempt to stop funds for testing, as well as other legislative moves on arms control.

The Administration, meanwhile, is close to a decision on whether to put into effect a "broad" interpretation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty which would allow extensive testing of Star Wars systems.

Sources said that at a White House meeting on Tuesday, President Reagan reviewed the treaty and the progress made in research.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, understood to be opposed to early deployment of a first phase, has indicated, however, that he will concur to a "broad" interpretation of the treaty under certain conditions.

Last year the State Department legal counsel said the broad interpretation was the correct one, but Mr Shultz said for the time being the US would stick by the "narrow" interpretation. Since then, Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and his assistant, Mr Richard Perle, have been pushing hard for a broader interpretation and early Star Wars deployment.

Parliament 4

Soviet Union and its calls to convert the moratorium into a two-way measure to halt the arms race."

He said a situation had arisen that could seriously damage the security of the Soviet Union and its allies. He would not say whether renewed testing would involve the deployment of space weapons, but said Moscow would not attempt to match the US Star Wars programme.

The Reagan Administration has played down the long expected Soviet decision. Officials have reiterated that the US could not join any such ban as long as the West depended on the nuclear deterrent.

But the President is dis-

mayed at the Democrats' attempt to stop funds for testing, as well as other legislative moves on arms control.

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Telecom holds out for union concessions

As both sides in the telephone dispute yesterday continued exploratory talks aimed at finding a basis for settlement, British Telecom maintained there could be no agreement on pay unless the union agrees to drop some of its "restrictive practices" (Tim Jones writes).

Mr Michael Bett, Telecom's director of inland communications, said: "It remains our desire to bring this dispute to an end but it must be based on increased efficiency improvements."

Before the talks began, Mr John Golding, the union's general secretary, said he believed an early settlement was possible.

Gorbachov says deals with US are possible

Washington - The Reagan Administration was yesterday keenly awaiting the assessment by Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, and other leading former officials, of their wide-ranging Kremlin talks on Wednesday in which Mr Gorbachov said the US-Soviet relationship was "at a crossroads" (Michael Sinyon writes).

The Soviet leader, receiving one of the largest American political delegations to visit Moscow, spent three hours detailing his views on the prospects for arms control and for a better relationship with the US.

He said some forces in the US profited from anti-Soviet

hostility and from sowing hatred of the Soviet people. And giving a negative assessment of overall relations, according to the *Tass* report, "the way these relations are taking shape so far is unworthy of the great nations."

But he insisted: "We must muster the will and strength to turn it around." He said it could not be denied that there were forces in the US which needed the "enemy image" of the Soviet Union. But he believed Soviet-US arms accords were possible, adding: "We should work without wasting time on the whole gamut of the problems... move to each other half-way."

Nuclear waste train derailed

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

A railway wagon carrying eight tons of waste nuclear fuel from an atomic power station was derailed yesterday in a siding half a mile from the city centre of Gloucester.

Emergency services were called and checks on the flask by health physicists from the Central Electricity Generating Board showed no damage or leaks.

However, British Rail engineers had difficulty in deciding how to hoist the wagon and the diesel locomotive back onto the lines.

Although stranded when their wheels jumped the tracks during a shunting operation, the vehicles remained upright. The spent fuel was in transit from the Oldbury atomic power station, near Bristol, to the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield, in Cumbria.

Only one of the train's 20 wagons was carrying spent fuel.

Thatcher joins rape row

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister spoke yesterday of the "dreadful" crime of rape and called on the opposition to back changes in the law to give the Court of Appeal power to review and comment on lenient sentences.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher disturbed some of her backbenchers and angered Labour MPs by treating in a political manner a remark by Mr Neil Kinnock when, during exchanges about the Ealing rape case, he said it was sometimes difficult to "comprehend the insensitivity shown by judges to the sufferings of the victims of crime."

Mrs Thatcher retorted that when earlier legislation had come before the Lords to give the Court of Appeal the powers of review the Labour Party and Alliance had solidly opposed it. She took it, she said to Labour protests, that this time they would support it.

Ministers hope, however, that the dispute over the Ealing sentences will mean that the new provisions in the Criminal Justice Bill will get through the Lords this year.

The plan is opposed by the legal profession and many lawyer MPs, and was defeated, with a stronger proposal to give the prosecution the right to appeal against overlenient sentences, when it went before the Lords two years ago.

Some Conservatives are pressing the Government to strengthen the Bill, before a Commons committee, by making another attempt to force a prosecution right of appeal through Parliament. But senior Government sources said that was unlikely.

Heavy sentences, page 2

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NEWS SUMMARY

Shot man was INLA 'traitor'

A faction of the Irish National Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for killing a man found trussed and shot through the head on the Irish border yesterday.

The body of Mr Tony McCluskey, a leading member of the terrorist organization and close associate of Dominic McGlinchey, its one-time chief of staff, had been dumped on a road near Middletown, Co Armagh.

He had been taken from his home in Monaghan, a few miles away in the Irish Republic, and shot for allegedly becoming a traitor.

Local people discovered the body a few yards inside Northern Ireland but it remained lying on the road as soldiers and police delayed moving towards it fearing an elaborate booby trap.

Unionist quits as JP

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the official Unionist Party, yesterday resigned as a JP in protest over the Anglo-Irish agreement. Mr Molyneux said that since the agreement he had found himself required to uphold and enforce discretionary decisions a government had committed itself to take, in conformity with the wishes of another state. He was not prepared to do this.

Since the agreement was signed in November 1985, Unionist MPs have boycotted parliamentary business at Westminster, though some have worked in their London offices. All remain entitled to an annual salary of £18,500 and to claim secretarial and research allowances up to £20,140, and mileage allowances on constituency business.

Sex bias curbs

Wider powers against sex discrimination come into force tomorrow.

Firms with five or fewer employees and partnerships, however small, will no longer be able to discriminate against someone because of their sex or because they are married.

This will cover all kinds of small businesses and personal services, such as dentists, opticians, doctors, shops, restaurants, hotels, farms and franchises.

The Sex Discrimination Act 1986 widens and strengthens the powers of the 1975 Act.

Irish ban Wogan

Terry Wogan's scheduled interview with Dr Garret Fitzgerald, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, will not be repeated on RTE, the state television service, in order to maintain political balance in the run-up to the country's general election.

Many Irish viewers watch the BBC version of Wogan anyway, but Mr Charles Haughey, the Opposition leader, was not concerned. It seemed appropriate as most of the guests were actors or comedians, a spokesman said yesterday.

Sky high ambition

Miss Carol Wallis plans to set a new world record - by flying around the world in her own fighter aircraft.

Miss Wallis, aged 23, of Lynham, Wiltshire, runs her own successful helicopter company.

She has just bought a Saab 900 fighter aircraft from the Swedish air force.

She is still training for her jet pilot's licence but hopes to be ready for an attempt on the current round-the-world record of 42 hours next year.



Transplant man out

Mr Ray Cooke, a former soldier who was kept alive for two days by a plastic heart until a human one became available last November, will be allowed to leave hospital today.

Doctors at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, decided that Mr Cooke, aged 40, who comes from Nottingham, would die without immediate surgery, after suffering his third heart attack, and implanted the Jarvik 7 plastic heart - powered by a bedside compressor - in his chest.

It was the first such operation to be carried out in Britain.

One of the first things he asked for when he woke up was a hamburger, a rare sign he was on the road to recovery, according to his family.

Tottenham 'could have become a holocaust'

Disturbances at Broadwater Farm estate, Tottenham, north London, in which PC Keith Blakelock was killed, could have turned into a "holocaust" if the police had not taken a stand, a senior officer told the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Michael Richards, former Deputy Assistant Commissioner, who was the officer in charge of the scene in October 1985, agreed under cross-examination that the police had been the target of the mob.

However he said that it would have been "ridiculous" to have withdrawn riot police.

"Police officers were being attacked with petrol bombs and machetes and, had we not taken a stand, there is no doubt in my mind there would have been an overflow into surrounding streets and there would have been a holocaust."

Winston Silcott, aged 27, greengrocer, of Marlesham, Broadwater Farm estate; Mark Braithwaite, aged 20, unemployed, of Canonbury Villas, Islington; Engrin Raghup, aged 20, unemployed, of

Finsbury House, Partridge Way, Wood Green, all north London, and three youths, two aged 15 and one aged 16, deny charges of murder, riotous assembly and affray. The youth aged 16 also denies making petrol bombs and throwing one at a police officer. Raghup denies providing bottles for petrol bombs.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC, for one of the three youths, accused the police of attacking the estate. Mr Richards, now retired, replied: "I can only refute that suggestion. It was never an option at that time that we were going to invade the estate or surround it."

Broadwater Farm was looked upon as a volatile area needing sensitive policing.

The case continues today.

● Bernard Kinghorn, aged 20, unemployed, of Mouth Pleasant Road, Tottenham, was sentenced to 4½ years in youth custody at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after admitting charges of affray and throwing a petrol bomb at police during the disturbances. He also admitted stealing a cheque worth £175.

Deal nears for funding BAe's Airbus project

Agreement is near on a Government-backed financial package which will enable British Aerospace to build the wings for the planned new Airbus A340 and A330 passenger jets (Our Air Correspondent writes).

Detailed negotiations between officials from the Department of Trade and Industry and British Aerospace are now close to producing a complicated formula which would enable the company to join its European partners in developing the next generation of aircraft to challenge the American dominance of the world's airliner market.

The company had originally asked for £750 million in launch aid for the project which is designed to provide a European built competitor for Boeing and McDonnell Douglas into the next century.

Although the Government is unwilling to go all the way and give the full amount from Treasury funds, it seems willing to recommend that the Government provide around £500 million.

The rest would come from money borrowed in the commercial market and from British Aerospace.

Life for man who raped two prostitutes

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Heavy sentences for rape and attempted rape were imposed in two provincial courts yesterday in stark contrast to sentences imposed earlier this week by Mr Justice Leonard at the Central Criminal Court in the Ealing vicarage case.

Maroof Chaudhary, aged 19, was sentenced at Leeds Crown Court to life imprisonment for the rape of two prostitutes, while Livingstone Haynes, aged 26, was jailed at Winchester Crown Court for six years for attempted rape.

The punishments come just three days after sentences of five and three years were imposed as a part of total sentences of 10 and eight years on two men who broke into a vicar's home and raped a woman.

They are likely to increase pressure now mounting among some MPs for a prosecution right of appeal which can result in a sentence being increased.

Mr Harry Greenaway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, intends to table an amendment to that effect to the Criminal Justice Bill now passing through the Commons.

A prosecution right of appeal, with a power for the Court of Appeal to increase sentence, is known to be

favoured by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice. Further support came yesterday from Dr David Thomas, an expert on sentencing from Cambridge University's Institute of Criminology.

"Whether the sentences imposed by Mr Justice Leonard were right or not, the case shows the Government's proposals for too-lenient sentences to be referred to the Court of Appeal for a statement of principle are not the right answer."

The problem was not the lack of guidelines for sentencing in rape cases, but whether they had been followed in a particular case, he said.

Yesterday there was no doubt that the two judges were taking those guidelines to heart. Imposing a life sentence on Chaudhary, Mr Justice Kennedy said that after reading psychiatric reports he believed there would be a serious risk of his offending again if allowed free.

The court had heard earlier that Chaudhary, who lived with his aunt in Bradford, raped two prostitutes aged 18 and 20.

The judge said the psychiatrist indicated he derived pleasure and a sense of relief from acts of violence.

"You have no interest in the feelings of your victims."

"You have no feelings of remorse or guilt and show no

signs of mental illness. Even now you don't seem to appreciate the seriousness of what you have done. At large you are likely to remain a danger to women."

In the other case Haynes, of North Kensington, west London, was sentenced by Mr Justice Drake to six years for attempted rape on a train from Waterloo to Southampton. The judge also gave him three years, concurrent, for robbery.

The jury heard how Haynes had pestered the girl, aged 19, finally tried to rape her and then stopped when she offered him £100. But the judge said she was then "subjected to further sexual abuse."

Decision soon on Leyland truck sale

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The Government will shortly decide whether to sell Leyland Trucks to the Dutch or the American Day, Rover Group chairman, says talks with DAF and Paccar should be completed within two weeks and then he will make a recommendation to the Government.

More than 6,000 jobs are at stake although there is no argument about the need to merge the state-owned truck manufacturer with a foreign rival.

However, selling off Leyland has already caused the Government much embarrassment.

A "Keep Land Rover British" campaign scuppered an agreement with General Motors last March.

General Motors retreated from the negotiating table as a result of the campaign and closed the British Bedford truck plants.

All sides in the new round of merger talks want to avoid a public argument over the rival bids.

Leyland's financial record is enough to frighten off all but the most determined rival.

In 1985 it made a loss of £103 million as accumulated losses rose to £605 million.

Mr Day has emphasized that "our objective is to stop the cash drain", although a flexible approach has been taken to how that is achieved.

He said yesterday that it would not be difficult to judge which organization offered the best financial deal and job security, as there would be little to choose between the two.

The companies are keen to buy because of the modern range of trucks launched between 1980 and 1984, and an up to date assembly hall at Leyland.

The Paccar camp admits that DAF is ahead in the negotiating.

It has offered the important "carrot" of selling up to 3,000 Leyland Roadrunner trucks through its United States dealers, which sell Paccar's traditional American Kenwood and Peterbilt trucks.

The dispute which sparked off a year of violent demonstrations at News International's Wapping plant came to a head on January 1st last year when the printing unions demanded "jobs for life" at the high-technology centre in Docklands.

Events in the dispute moved rapidly after that.

January 9, 1986: An estimated 3,000 people take part in the first mass picket at Wapping. The violence fails to prevent the distribution of papers but leads to injuries to three policemen and 29 arrests.

February 10: The High Court order leads to Sogat's £17 million assets being seized and a £25,000 fine being imposed.

February 23: A crowd of 4,000 demonstrate at Wapping. Three weeks' later, an estimated 7,000 turn up but, despite clashes with the police, fail to stop production or distribution.

April 4: A compensation offer of the company's £50 million printing plant in Gray's Inn Road plus a £1 million contract is offered

to the unions by Mr Murdoch. A £15 million settlement was added to the offer later in the month but, on May 22, the unions reject it.

May 26: Mr Murdoch increases the offer - every union member to get four weeks' pay for every year of service, with a minimum set of £2,000. The unions reject it on June 6.

September 17: Mr Murdoch offers £60 million compensation. On October 8, it is rejected by Sogat; News International invites members to apply individually for compensation.

December 10: The cost of policing the dispute is put at £4.7 million.

January 23, 1987: News International announce that more than 1,700 union members have accepted compensation.

January 24: A mass rally to mark the first anniversary of the dispute ends in a riot outside Wapping but, again, fails to disrupt newspaper distribution.

Imported cars fall below 50%

Imported cars made up less than half the new cars sold in Britain in January for the first month in six years (Daniel Ward writes).

Ford and Vauxhall sold 14 per cent more British built models than in January last year, with Ford importing only 27 per cent of its new cars and Vauxhall 31 per cent.

Ford improved its sales marginally to 27.5 per cent, despite the Sierra being only two months away from a major facelift, but after being out-sold by the Ford model last year, the Vauxhall Cavalier was back in front in January and second place in the sales league.

Vauxhall's market share was down compared with last January to 16.3 per cent but this is an improvement on its overall penetration for 1986.

Austin Rover was in a similar position, registering a 16.9 per cent share, though Mini sales were up 21 per cent. For the first time Rover 200 outsold the Montego.

It has offered the important "carrot" of selling up to 3,000 Leyland Roadrunner trucks through its United States dealers, which sell Paccar's traditional American Kenwood and Peterbilt trucks.

to the unions by Mr Murdoch. A £15 million settlement was added to the offer later in the month but, on May 22, the unions reject it.

May 26: Mr Murdoch increases the offer - every union member to get four weeks' pay for every year of service, with a minimum set of £2,000. The unions reject it on June 6.

September 17: Mr Murdoch offers £60 million compensation. On October 8, it is rejected by Sogat; News International invites members to apply individually for compensation.

December 10: The cost of policing the dispute is put at £4.7 million.

January 23, 1987: News International announce that more than 1,700 union members have accepted compensation.

January 24: A mass rally to mark the first anniversary of the dispute ends in a riot outside Wapping but, again, fails to disrupt newspaper distribution.

Another man, Graham Ricketts, aged 27, was bound over for a year in the sum of £150 after being charged with threatening behaviour.

Those granted bail were: Tino Bagostino, aged 29, Joseph Elliot, aged 21, Martin Smith, aged 23, Richard Sanders, aged 24, Terence Radford, aged 41.

Voters in Ireland undecided

By Richard Ford

A large number of the Irish electorate remains undecided on how it will vote in the general election in spite of more than two weeks of campaigning.

The party leaders have failed to make any significant movement in opinion since Dr Garret Fitzgerald's coalition government dissolved over its failure to agree on a budget.

Party strategists are intrigued by the unusually high "don't know" which way they will vote.

Wealthy farmers, the 35-49 age group, the middle class and voters in Dublin are conspicuous among the one-fifth of the electorate who are undecided. These may be people who backed Dr Fitzgerald in 1982 but are unhappy with his failure to deliver on economic promises, but are uncertain about backing Mr Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail party which remains favourite to win.

The remarkable showing of Mr Desmond O'Malley, who quit Fianna Fail to form the New Progressive Democrats reflects the disillusion within the republic. The polls rate him as the most popular politician in the country.

However, the party must translate his popularity into seats.

Britons held as 'cannabis ring broken' in Spain

By Harry Debilius, Marbella, and Stewart Tendler

Six Britons appeared before a Spanish judge yesterday on the Costa del Sol after an undercover drugs investigation revealed a multimillion pound cannabis ring smuggling drugs from North Africa into Europe and Britain.

Five men and a woman were arrested on Monday after operations around Marbella and the fishing village of Puerto Banus. Police seized more than half a ton of cannabis resin and eight gallons of refined "hash oil".

They are: Mr Rodney George Hazard, aged 42, from Manchester; Mr Frank Goben, aged 35, from Newcastle; Mr Andrew Graham Sutton, aged 24, from Luckfield; Mr John Alan Brooks, aged 36, from Blackpool; Mr Christopher A Smith, aged 36, from Leicester; and Miss Sarah Dawn Labran, aged 21, from Carlisle, who is Mr Brooks's fiancée.

The arrests came as Spanish drugs investigators swooped on a Mediterranean beach as drugs were being unloaded from a vessel at night by a gang using two-way radios and Range Rovers.

The home of one of the six was also raided and cars seized.

Police allegedly caught four of the suspects with 26 packages containing the cannabis in powder and tablet form and four two-gallon jugs of the oil. They also confiscated a launch, walkie-talkies and three other vehicles.

After the first arrests police then reportedly took Mr Smith and Miss Labran into custody, finding more radio communications equipment and vehicle licence plates from several countries.

Police then located four

other vessels belonging to the suspects, including a motor cruiser, Lee Maria; the yacht, Diogenes; the twin-engine speedboat, Big Maggie; and the launch, Massai.

The Diogenes, said to be owned by Mr Brooks, was once owned by Mr Kevin Taylor, the Manchester businessman and friend of Mr John Stalker, the retiring deputy chief constable of Manchester. For more than a decade Spain has been a focal point for drugs from Morocco destined for Europe. Drugs are driven across Spain and France to the Channel ports.

The traffic on the cross-Channel ferries is so great that customs officers accept that drugs are getting through unchecked. Apart from London and the South-east, the main consumer areas are thought to be Manchester and Liverpool.

Customs drug detection units using sniffer dogs are to be increased by 40 per cent and more ports and airports will be covered, the customs and excise said yesterday.

Sixteen new dogs and handlers are to be recruited by the end of the financial year 1988-89, bringing the number of dog teams to 56.

New units will be sent to cover Aberdeen, Belfast, Sheerness, Edinburgh, Plymouth, Luton airport and Newcastle airport.

The increase in the units reflects the value of the dogs and the customs realization of just how open smaller ports and airports could become if not controlled.

The dogs are trained to detect cannabis, cocaine, heroin and amphetamines. They have proved especially useful in ranging across large freight areas and luggage controls.

January 12: Sogat '82 and NGA decide to hold strike ballots following the announcement that a Sunday Times supplement will be printed at Wapping. The following day, Mr Murdoch announces that all four titles - The Times, The Sun, The Sunday Times and News of the World - will be produced at Wapping if there are further strikes at existing plants.

January 21: Sogat and NGA members vote 5-1 in favour of industrial action. Two days later, there is deadlock in talks between Mr Murdoch and the unions.

January 24: An immediate strike is called by the printing unions and their 5,500 workers are deemed by News International to have dismissed themselves. Editors announce the move to Wapping.

January 25: The Sunday Times is printed at the new plant. The following day, the first edition of The Times rolls out of Wapping after journalists on the paper vote 3-1 in favour of the move.

January 27: Sogat attempts

Pay-out of £3,000 on caning

A man who six years ago was suspended from school after refusing to be caned has been awarded £3,000 compensation.

The award from the European Human Rights Commission is the first to be made since the ruling in 1982 that Britain's corporal punishment policy broke the Human Rights Convention.

The British Government will have to pay the money to Mr John Townsend, now aged 22, of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, because of the disruption to his education, which prevented him taking examinations.

It will also have to pay the family's legal costs of £2,300 and £200 to Mr Townsend's father, also called John, for the distress he suffered.

The terms of the settlement were arranged by the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg and announced yesterday by the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment.

The case stems from an incident in December 1979 when Mr Townsend, a pupil at Kimberworth comprehensive in Rotherham, was sent to be caned for fighting in class. He refused and was suspended.

More students now places at university last October than in any year since 1980 when numbers reached a peak (Our Education Correspondent writes).

A total of 84,524 candidates were accepted for undergraduate courses in 1986, just 170 fewer than the record and 10,000 more than in 1983 when government cuts in higher education hit hardest.

The latest figures, published yesterday by the Universities Central Council on Admissions, show a continuing increase in overseas students whose numbers fell sharply after 1979 when they were required to pay "full-cost" fees. Last year there were 7,628, nearly 14 per cent more than in 1985, a consequence of some vigorous recruiting.

The home student total of 76,896 includes a record 32,901 women, nearly 43 per cent, a proportion which has been rising steadily for the past 10 years.

None the less, slightly more than half of all those who apply for a place at the 45 universities in the United Kingdom are unsuccessful. Applications last year totalled 173,779, a drop of 1.6 per cent on the year before.

He added, however, that "technically" there was no reason why the coroner should not do this.

The inquest was told the youth, who was unemployed and lived with his parents and brother and sister in Farm Road, Maidenhead, had not been well and had personal problems.

Two people saw him plunge 30 feet from the top of Sainsbury's car park but were unable to revive him. A post-mortem examination showed he had a fractured skull and probably died outright.

Family picks inquest verdict

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A family at the inquest on the death of their son was asked yesterday to choose their own verdict.

Mr Robert Wilson, coroner for East Berkshire, told them he believed Richard Smith, aged 18, had probably committed suicide when he plunged from the top of a Maidenhead multistorey car park.

But after outlining the different verdicts he could bring in, including suicide, he asked: "Would you prefer it if I brought in an open verdict?"

The youth's father, Mr Bryan Smith, was clearly surprised and replied: "I think it was the truth but we obviously would prefer an open verdict."

Mr Wilson duly returned an open verdict and said: "Whatever I write on a bit of paper doesn't make any difference. I cannot bring him back."

His actions were described as "very unusual" yesterday by Mr John Clarke, coroner for North-East Hampshire, former president of the Coroners' Society and a member of its committee.

"He may have been soliciting information about what the family wanted but it

Demonstrators bailed

Thirteen people were granted unconditional bail by Thames magistrates yesterday on public order charges arising from demonstrations outside the News International plant at Wapping, east London.

Another man, Graham Ricketts, aged 27, was bound over for a year in the sum of £150 after being charged with threatening behaviour.

Those granted bail were: Tino Bagostino, aged 29, Joseph Elliot, aged 21, Martin Smith, aged 23, Richard Sanders, aged 24, Terence Radford, aged 41.

putting back the 1991 date for delivery of the first of the Boeing planes.

Regular discussions are already taking place between the Ministry of Defence in London, Boeing in Seattle and the US Department of Commerce in Washington to try to sort out the unexpected stumbling block.

The legal problems were not foreseen, when the decision was made to buy Awacs instead of the GEC Nimrod.

Younger may intervene on Awacs

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, may appeal directly to his opposite number in Washington, Mr Casper Weinberger, to solve the legal problems that are delaying signing of the contract for the Awacs early warning system.

Whitehall sources said yesterday that Mr Younger "would not hesitate to pick up the phone" if the difficulties became so serious as to risk

Poll gives comfort to hard-left councils

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Voters are more satisfied with the performance of local than central government, recent Whitehall interference with the affairs of local councils, and blame Westminster for many of their shortcomings.

Nor is there conclusive evidence to show that those who live in areas run by "loony left" councils are more dissatisfied than those who do not.

These are the broad findings of MORI polls on local government carried out for clients during the past two years, and

they will boost Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, who in a electioneering speech at his party's local government conference in Leeds tonight will point to the record of most Labour local authorities as an example of what to expect from Labour.

He is likely to praise their commitment to preserving services in the face of stringent government spending cuts.

For the Conservatives, who have played on the antics of Labour's "loony left" councils with considerable success, the findings will be disappointing.

Animal Liberation Front

Nine terrorists jailed after campaign of fire bombs

By Ian Smith

Nine leading members of the Animal Liberation Front who took part in a nationwide bombing campaign were yesterday jailed for a total of more than 37 years.

Co-founder of the organization, Ronald Lee, aged 35, who directed operations and financed attacks from a second floor London office received a 10-year jail sentence.

He was found guilty of conspiracy to commit arson, commit criminal damage and incite others to commit criminal damage.

The Deputy High Court judge, Sir Frederick Lawton,

told Lee, who used the alias "Captain Kirk", that the evidence against him was overwhelming.

He had been shown to be a fanatic who allowed what might be very worthy ideals to change him into a dangerous terrorist. "It is clear you are a dangerous criminal," he was told.

Vivian Smith, aged 26, described as Lee's enthusiastic and able lieutenant was given a four year sentence.

She was found guilty of committing criminal damage, but cleared of conspiracy to commit arson and inciting

others to commit criminal damage.

The judge referred to "horrendous" articles, a complete terrorist kit found in a drawer hidden under her bed and said he was totally mystified as to the whereabouts of £12,900 paid in by Animal Rights sympathizers and transferred to her personal account.

Kevin Baldwin, aged 27, Gary Cartwright, aged 30, and Ian Ordley, aged 25, each received four years' imprisonment for conspiring to commit arson and conspiring to commit criminal damage, the

sentences to run concurrently.

Sir Frederick said he was satisfied that none of the three men were officers, merely soldiers in the Animal Liberation Front.

Brandon McNally, local organizing agent for the Sheffield area, was found guilty of committing criminal damage although cleared of conspiracy to commit arson and incite criminal damage and was also sentenced to four years.

The most tragic case, the judge said, revolved around Julia Rogers, aged 26, who planted the incendiary bomb which caused £200,000 of damage at Rackhams department store in Sheffield in November 1985.

The judge said he was satisfied that her involvement in the conspiracy arose only because of her love for Kevin Baldwin but that did not excuse her carrying an incendiary bomb into the city centre store and hiding it under a settee.

She pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit arson and conspiracy to commit criminal damage.

Most pathetic of all the cases, the judge added, involved Isobel Facer, aged 19, an academically bright girl whose love of animals caused her to embark on a terrorist trail. She was sentenced to nine months youth custody.

The judge ordered a stinging attack for John Hewson, aged 63, a former teacher who admitted conspiring to steal beagle hounds from the Ecclesfield Hunt Kennels near Sheffield.

He had played a large role in what was a military-style operation carried out with detailed precision and his despicable behaviour had revealed him as a "bit of a humbug".

One of the accused was not in court. Roger Yates, aged 29, described as the northern organizer of the animal rights movement, failed to surrender to bail on the fourteenth day of the trial last week and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

In his absence he was found guilty of conspiring to commit criminal damage and inciting others to commit damage and sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

'Captain Kirk' led group

What was originally dismissed as disorganized groups of animal rights protesters capable only of haphazard hunt sabotage forays was menacingly transformed into a highly organized network of urban terrorists determined to cause economic chaos and widespread destruction of property.

In the words of the Sir Frederick Lawton, "fire raiders were abroad", there was a very widespread, national and dangerous conspiracy organized by the Animal Liberation Front.

Singled out for attack were top stores which sold animal furs.

During a 14-month campaign of destruction Rackhams store in Sheffield was attacked with fire bombs. Alders store in Croydon was set ablaze and £75,000 of mayhem resulted, and at Debenhams in Sheffield an incendiary bomb hidden inside a cigarette packet went off in the hands of a shop assistant. A fourth incendiary bomb was discovered in a neighbouring store and was two devices discovered at Selfridges in Oxford Street, London.

A Ministry of Defence expert who examined one of the incendiary bombs described it as a unique and very well-made device.

In little more than a year millions of pounds of damage was caused and police determination to smash the country-wide network culminated in a crisis conference among chief

constables at Scotland Yard early in 1986.

Suspects were placed under 24-hour surveillance and sophisticated bugging devices hidden inside the homes of known activists.

Nerve centre of the Animal Liberation Front, from which money and instructions were sent out to regional organizers and sent passed on to small activist cells, was an unpretentious second floor office at No 2 Hammersmith Broadway in London.

At the entrance was a plaque inscribed "Independent Tax Advisory Services" but what went on behind closed doors in the office was a sophisticated operation overlaid by two dedicated ALF activists.

Leader of the group was Ronald Lee who used the codename "Captain Kirk". His accomplice was Vivian Smith. Money for the organization was lodged into two separate bank accounts, one used to bank legitimate support groups and the second to finance fire-raising operations.

When the office was raided police found literature advocating the activists' aims. One pamphlet said: "The short term aim is to save as many animal lives as possible and the long term aim is to end all abuse of animals by humans".

One paper spoke of the need to cause economic destruction to bring about the eventual financial ruin of animal abusers.

Police who raided Smith's home found a handbook on how to make delayed action incendiary devices. It even explained how to make hand grenades out of cigarette lighters.

Round the clock surveillance of an end terrace house in Isworth Road, Fifth Park, Sheffield, came after the planting under a first floor floorboard of a highly sensitive microphone.

The first floor flat, ostensibly used as a home by Brendan McNally and his wife, Jennifer, was in fact the main bomb factory which supplied incendiary devices to activist cells in other parts of the country.

Minutes before detectives raided the flat they heard a conversation between five ALF members about plans to produce even more sophisticated incendiary bombs.

Activist operations began on a minor scale then escalated to frightening proportions which threatened lives.

Initially targeted was anyone, businessman and butcher, pet shop owners and animal laboratory technicians suspected of involvement with animal exploitation.

Shop windows were broken with ball bearings fired from catapults, slogans sprayed on cars with acid-based etching fluid and even a crossbow used to smash through reinforced glass shop fronts.



Diana Rigg, the actress, a vice-president of Bliss (Baby Life Support Systems) received a £100,000 cheque yesterday from Johnson & Johnson, the baby care firm. The money was raised by the public in a token collecting scheme run by the firm and will help newborn babies at risk such as Adam Warren who weighs 2lb 6oz (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

Hostess 'amazed at raid'

Mrs Cynthia Payne, the hostess known for her sex parties and her affable manner, slammed down her glasses in the witness box yesterday and asked: "Why am I here?"

Mrs Payne, aged 53, who denies controlling prostitutes at her home in Ambleside Road, Salford, south-west London, said that when police raided her party in May 1986 she was dumbfounded.

"I couldn't believe it. I still can't believe it. I thought the charges should have been dropped ages ago."

Mrs Payne said 30 officers burst into her house "like a rugby football team".

With her voice trembling, she said some of her guests thought the raid was a publicity stunt for the film being made about her life, *Personal Services*.

Mrs Payne said she had never denied her parties were sex parties. "But it was not sex for money," she said.

She also took offence at suggestions that some of her guests were provocatively dressed in black leather and were therefore prostitutes.

Even royalty wore black leather these days, she said. "I saw the Duchess of York dressed in a black leather skirt the other day. If it's good enough for her, it's good enough for me."

Mrs Payne wept as she was asked about her former lover, Squadron Leader Robert "Mick" Smith, by her counsel, Mr David Spens.

She described how she went to his flat in Purley in 1981 and found him dead. As she tried to answer questions, she burst into tears saying: "This is what breaks me down. I don't want to talk about his death or even talk about him."

Mr Spens asked why she removed bondage equipment from the squadron leader's flat to her own house where it was found during the police raid. "I took everything away, all his personal things. It was nostalgia. I heard things. My three dogs are dead, but I have got their leads for sentimental reasons," she said.

On Wednesday Mrs Payne said that the squadron leader, who was in his seventies, was "a bit of a kink" and liked to be caged or whipped. She said his bondage equipment was kept in her "kinky box" and claimed police also found some of her grandchildren's belongings which were stored there.

"The police took pictures of my grandchildren's toys and called them sex toys," she added.

One of the guests told the court that the most exciting part of the party was the police raid.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Airline tries for European routes

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Air Europe, the charter flight operator, hopes to fly scheduled services from Gatwick airport to 11 European cities, the airline says in a detailed submission presented to the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday.

Mr Harry Goodman, chairman of the International Leisure Group, which owns Air Europe, makes plain in the submission that the application is being made to increase profits.

The airline, which caters mainly for package tour holidaymakers, plans to concentrate on business travellers, with scheduled flights sandwiched between holiday charter flights and the aircraft in use for up to 18 hours a day.

Air Europe has told the CAA that the high utilization rate can be achieved with the purchase of Boeing 737 and 757 jets, which require less maintenance than older aircraft. The company believes that a further liberalization of air services within Europe will enable it to gain the necessary approval from European gov-

ernments for services to begin later this year.

Although CAA approval seems likely, the airline has volunteered to move its existing charter services to less busy times and replace them with its new scheduled services in an effort to relieve overcrowding at Gatwick.

However, it may be more difficult to get a reciprocal agreement with those countries in Europe which are still opposed to allowing new airlines to enter the market.

Air Europe admits its narrow seating in business class "will not be an easy nut to crack". But it hopes to offer fares of about 15 per cent below those available on existing business class flights.

"European businessmen do not understand why they cannot enjoy the low level of charter fares offered to similar European cities, or at least have the comparatively low fares provided by United States carriers for businessmen travelling within the USA," the submission says.



Mrs Jane Harvey, celebrating her first big win.

Paper to pay peer over libel

Lord Stradbroke was undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that he had a mistress in Australia and that his son lived in a shed.

The court was told that an article in the *Daily Express* in September 1984 contained a number of "totally false" allegations.

Smear case councillor sentenced

A former Liberal councillor who obtained confidential DHSS information in an attempt to smear a Labour councillor, was given a suspended jail sentence at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Stephen Kirkham got his former election agent, Catherine Purcell, to photocopy claims for supplementary benefit made by a Labour councillor, Mrs Carole McKeown, and her husband.

Kirkham then sent an anonymous letter to DHSS officers making false allegations that Mrs McKeown was fiddling her benefit.

An investigation was launched which resulted in Purcell's arrest.

Last year Purcell pleaded guilty to breaching the Official Secrets Act and was given a three months jail sentence suspended for a year.

During the hearing she claimed she agreed to pass

Kirkham the information when he threatened to make allegations that she was having an affair with a married man.

Kirkham, aged 31, of Kings Heath, Birmingham, had denied receiving information in contravention of the Official Secrets Act, but was found guilty by a jury.

He was given a six months jail sentence suspended for two years and ordered to pay £200 costs.

Boy says killing was accident

A schoolboy accused of murder told a jury yesterday he took a knife to school just to threaten and scratch another pupil who later died as they fought.

The death was a "terrible accident", the boy, aged 13 at the time, told Manchester Crown Court where he denies murdering a boy, also aged 13, at the city's Burnage High School last September.

The boy, a Pakistani, died from a stomach wound after the fight on September 17 last year and it is alleged the defendant boasted: "I am going to have a Paki fight. I am going to kill him."

Yesterday the defendant, now 14, said he had not wanted to fight. He left the dock and, clutching the small fish knife in his right hand, demonstrated how he swung at the other boy.

"I meant not to stab him but to threaten him," he said. "I knew he was going to get me that day so I put the knife in my pocket. I did not intend to use this knife to cause harm, just to prick him with it."

During the fight the other boy had gone for his face with his hands. He had intended to put the knife to the other boy's face but "could not get there quick enough".

Mr Richard Henriques, QC, for the prosecution, asked: "It was a terrible accident that the knife entered his body to the hilt?"

The boy replied: "Yes. There was nothing deliberate about it."

He admitted he had been made to look ridiculous by the other boy in another fight and "broadly resented" it.

The hearing continues today.

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Vangelis 'faces £2m claim'

Vangelis, the Oscar-winning composer, may have to pay a little known Greek musician nearly £2 million if he loses his High Court battle to prove that the hit tune "Chariots of Fire" was all his own work, it was revealed yesterday.

Mr Stavros Logarides, who accused Mr Vangelis of copying part of his theme music for a Greek television series, is claiming between £1-2 million damages.

The sum was revealed during the cross-examination of Ariadne Mackinnon-Andrew, Mr Logarides' former girl friend.

Cross-examined by Mr David Hooper, defending Mr Vangelis, Miss Mackinnon-Andrew said Mr Logarides had promised her half of any money he got.

She said she did not know how much that amounted to but Mr Hooper told her that "if Stavros wins the day" then half of his "winnings" would be between £500,000 and £1 million.

EMI Publishing Music Ltd, which publishes Mr Logarides' music, is asking the judge to grant an injunction banning Mr Vangelis and three music publishers from breaching copyright.

Mr Vangelis, of Queensgate, South Kensington, west London, sued under his real name of Evangelos Papathanasiou, and the three publishers all deny infringing copyright.

The case continues today.

Man saw fan 'who began Heysel riot'

A schoolteacher has identified one of two Liverpool football fans who he said started the incident that led to the Heysel Stadium disaster, a court was told yesterday.

Mr John Paul Dullers said he saw the two supporters climb over the fence separating British from Italian fans. He identified one of them as Graham Reeve, aged 24, of Southampton, one of 26 people facing extradition proceedings at Highbury Corner magistrates' court, north London, for the alleged manslaughter of Marion Ronchi, aged 42.

Mr Ronchi was one of 39 people who died in Brussels when a wall collapsed during rioting before the 1985 European Cup Final between Liverpool and Juventus of Italy.

Mr Dullers said in his statement that the police did not intervene when the Liverpool supporters ran in an "organized charge" into the section where the Italians were standing.

The court heard that medical evidence showed Mr

Ronchi died from asphyxia and cerebral anoxia.

In all, 276 supporters were injured. Three needed brain surgery and 22 needed intensive care. One victim remained in hospital for eight months.

Belgian police officers have been charged with involuntary manslaughter and, in an out-of-court statement, Sir Harry Livermore, who is appearing for the defence in the extradition hearing, named one of them as Captain John Mahieu, who had been responsible for police operations in the stadium.

Sir Harry said it was "significant" that the Belgian judiciary had taken the step of charging a senior officer. "The evidence directed against the 26 Liverpool supporters does appear to say they are wholly to blame."

He said it would be difficult to jail the English supporters if the Belgians who are charged, including two other members of the Gendarmes, do not serve prison sentences.

The case continues today.

Success of crime fight schemes

By Craig Seton

Burglars and thieves are on the retreat from middle class suburbs because of the success of neighbourhood watch schemes, a police chief said yesterday.

Instead, they are operating in poorer inner city areas, Mr Geoffrey Dear, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, said.

He gave a warning that the reluctance of people to form neighbourhood watches in urban areas with a predominance of council housing was an encouragement to criminals.

He said: "Community watch schemes in the home areas have been so successful that there is now a tendency for crime, which might normally have taken place there, to spill over into inner city areas where the majority are not home owners."

Under the schemes, residents agree to watch over neighbouring property and advise their vigilance in strategically-placed posters.

However, experience showed that it was "singularly difficult to get people in council housing areas to look after their property."

More than 700 neighbourhood watch schemes operate in the West Midlands.

Although there were more than 73,000 burglaries in the county in 1985, the figure was down 6 per cent on the previous year.

Mr Dear said that was largely due to the success of neighbourhood watch schemes.

Prison for man who appealed against fine

A man who appealed against an £80 fine for assaulting a policeman was jailed for six months yesterday by a judge who said the lower court had been too lenient.

Judge Gabriel Hutton dismissed the appeal against conviction and said the offence was so serious that Gary Turner, aged 31, of Downfield House, Sharncliffe, near

Chesterham, had to go to prison.

Chesterham magistrates, who originally tried the case, had been too lenient, he said at Gloucester Crown Court.

Turner became violent when bailiffs arrived with police officers at his council home because he owed £155 in rent, the court heard.

Remand for two on prison break charge

Two men who appeared on charges including escape from prison, the attempted murder of a police constable and firearms offences were remanded in custody until March 5, by Lambeth magistrates yesterday.

Michael Turner, aged 29, unemployed, of no fixed address, is accused of escaping from Wandsworth prison on January 20, attempting to murder Police Constable Ian Thomas at Poplar, east London, on January 26, possessing a pistol with intent to endanger life, and resisting arrest.

John Newham, aged 27, a street trader, of Kennington, south London, is also accused of attempting to murder the PC, possessing a pistol with intent to endanger life, and using the pistol to attempt to resist Turner's arrest.

Suicide and the young

Samaritans launch video campaign

A campaign to halt the big increase in suicides among young people, which have risen by 24 per cent in the past 10 years, was launched yesterday by the Samaritans.

With 416 people under the age of 25 committing suicide in England and Wales each year, the organization is to distribute a video recording and discussion package, called "Time to Talk", to 9,000 schools and youth organizations throughout Britain.

The video recording, produced by the Children's Film Unit, presents three common situations that can lead to suicidal feelings among teenagers. Accompanying literature suggests ways of

discussing issues such as loneliness, bullying, sexuality and racism, and of seeking and offering help.

The Samaritans hope that by provoking discussion and awareness among young people they can defuse a problem that has threatened to overwhelm them in recent years.

Mr Nick Eberly, honorary youth officer, said that 10,000 children, aged under 16, were in touch with the Samaritans for the first time last year, placing an almost intolerable strain upon the resources of its 21,000 volunteers.

The high divorce rate, an increase in teenage alcohol consumption and growing social pressures have contrib-

uted to the rise in the number of children committing suicide, Dr Jim Dickey, consultant psychiatrist to the Samaritans, said. But no generalized explanations had yet been established, although among adults there was a clear connection between suicide and unemployment.

The Children's Film Unit, a charity based in Battersea, south-west London, whose members acted in and helped to write the video display, blamed the furious pace of modern life for many of the pressures which caused children to snap.

"Things change so fast and some kids get left behind and don't have anyone to talk to

about their problems. At least by seeing this video, children will realize that there are people to talk to who won't tell your parents," Miss Prudence Oliver, an actress, aged 15, said.

Dr Herman Chan-Pensley, a psychologist with the Inner London Education Authority, said: "Time to Talk is a very appropriate title because often by the time a problem has assumed the dimensions of a crisis, and the child is talking with me or the Samaritans perhaps, it's the first time anyone has taken them seriously."

The Samaritans was founded in 1953 by Prebendary Dr Chad Varah.

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PARLIAMENT

Kinnock agrees with Thatcher on rape law

In exchanges in the Commons about the recent Ealing rape case, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition broadly agreed on the need to change the law so that some cases can be referred by the Attorney General to the Court of Appeal for review, but Mrs Thatcher criticized the Opposition for opposing a previous measure which would have allowed two years ago.

Mr Neil Kinnock said that it was sometimes difficult to comprehend the insensitivity shown by judges to the sufferings of the victims of crime.

Mr Malcolm Thorston (Crosby, C): The sentences passed in the Ealing vicarage case not only fall short of the guidelines laid down by the Lord Chief Justice, but fly in the face of the way the public show their revulsion (Conservative cheers). Will the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary look at the present Criminal Justice Bill and see how it can be strengthened to give effect to the proposals of Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice?

Mrs Thatcher: We share the deep concern about the dreadful crime of rape. It is the Government's task to see that sufficient maximum sentences are available for the courts to deal with these matters.

Clause 29 of the Criminal Justice Bill allows the Attorney General to seek leave to refer to the Court of Appeal cases which seem to him to raise issues of public importance. It would enable proper sentencing to be maintained.

There has been a similar proposal before Parliament before, but it was lost in the House of Lords, and we undertook to bring back a similar clause. That will be an opportunity to secure the sentencing guidelines laid down by the Court of Appeal.

Mr Kinnock: I am broadly in agreement with what she said about sentences and I offer the view that while it is necessary for judges to

EALING CASE

be detached in the name of the law, they sometimes show insensitivity to the suffering of the victims which it is difficult to comprehend.

Mrs Thatcher: I must point out to him that the matter came up on a Bill in the Lords when Labour and the Alliance voted solidly to oppose it. I take it that on proposals to enable longer sentences to be imposed, they will this time support it (Labour protests). I know that Mr Kinnock does not like the facts and finds them very embarrassing (renewed protests).

Mr Kinnock: I think that she will want to reflect (Conservative protests) — on her use of my previous question which I thought was a matter of common view among us. Notwithstanding her efforts to make party points — (renewed Conservative protests and shouts of "Twister") — the fact remains that the matter to which she refers would not have gone to appeal on this kind of case, as I presume she wants.

Sir George Young (Ealing Action, C): during questions next week's business, said that time for a general debate on sentencing policy and, in particular, on the place of rape in the general tariff of sentences available at the moment.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, said that the passage of the Criminal Justice Bill through Parliament might enable him to make the sort of speech he had in mind.

"I do realize that this recent event has caught the full mind and distaste of the public at large. I will be in mind what he says. There is no early prospect of such a debate."

Mr Peter Brannan (Leicester

East, C) asked for a debate of the Lord Chief Justice's guidelines on sentencing in rape cases. He said that there was outrage throughout the country that the average sentence for rape was 3½ years and only 20 months were served.

Could there not be an opportunity to have stiffer sentences introduced, a minimum of 2½ years with no parole, and an opportunity to appeal against the absurdly lenient sentences which were being imposed, even by Mr Justice Leonard in the Ealing vicarage case?

Mr Henry Greenway (Ealing North, C) asked if Mr Biffen would reconsider the decision not to hold an early debate on sentencing policy and wider issues concerning rape trials.

Would the Leader of the House also allow a debate which would enable MPs to question the role of the judiciary in these matters? The families in such cases felt that the woman's point of view was not properly understood by a male judge, who should be supported or replaced by a female judge in future rape trials.

Mr Biffen said he had already given a measured and reasonable reply which took a realistic view of demands made upon the time of the House. The substantive answer was the one he had given to Sir George Young's first question.

Mr Anthony Fawell (Stockport, C): While discussing sentencing policy, would he applaud the decision of the Court of Appeal this week not to interfere with two five-year imprisonment sentences imposed on two young men for mugging a bus conductor and the statement that those who indulge in mugging, especially of women at night, can expect long custodial sentences.

Mr Biffen: I have always made it a practice as far as possible not to comment upon court sentencing.

Labour 'embarrassed over policing policy'

The Labour Party was doing an embarrassed shuffle over its proposals for increased local authority involvement in the work of the police. *The Times* had done a good job in exposing that in a front-page article, which he commented to members Mr Douglas Hogg, the Home Secretary, said during question time in the Commons.

Answering questions about crime figures, he told the House that the main figures for the first three quarters of 1986 had been published. There had been a quarter should be published in March.

These included the number of burglaries and thefts recorded by police forces. He said that 66 per cent more burglaries and 40 per cent more thefts had been recorded in the 12 months ending September 1986, than in the 12 months before March 1979.

Mr Ian Mearns (Bow and Poplar, Lab): Does he find it strange that the effect of the policies of the Government which claimed to be better at law and order than anybody else, are firstly an ever increasing rise in crimes and secondly the pathetic police performance in the clearance rate?

Mr Hogg: I do not claim we have solved the crime problem (Opposition laughter). I can say we have strengthened the police, there are 10,000 more officers, the Government have bought their equipment and improved their co-operation with the community as the 18,000

neighbourhood-watch schemes shows. The Government has increased powers over terrorism.

All this would be undermined and perhaps destroyed if the police forces of this country were, to use the original phrase of the Labour Party proposals, to be under the democratic supervision of local councils.

Mr Geoffrey Lathouse (Pontefract and Castleford, Lab): There has been an improvement in police pay in the lifetime of this Government. Will he tell the House why he believes there has been an increase in the crime rate and a decrease in the detection rate?

Mr Hogg: During the lifetime of this Government, as during previous governments, the rate of recorded crime in this country has continued steadily to rise. As regards the crimes of perhaps most concern, violence against the person, although the figures have continued to rise, they have been rising at half the rate of the rise during the lifetime of the Labour Government.

Mr John Wheeler (Westminster North, C): The Metropolitan Police and the constabulary police generally, have very good clear-up rates and have improved the clear-up of serious crimes. The problem is the 95 per cent of property crime.

Mr Hogg: I entirely agree. In the case of burglaries, a quarter of such offences in this country do not involve forcible entry, but through a window or door

left insecure. There is enormous scope for crime prevention in this area.

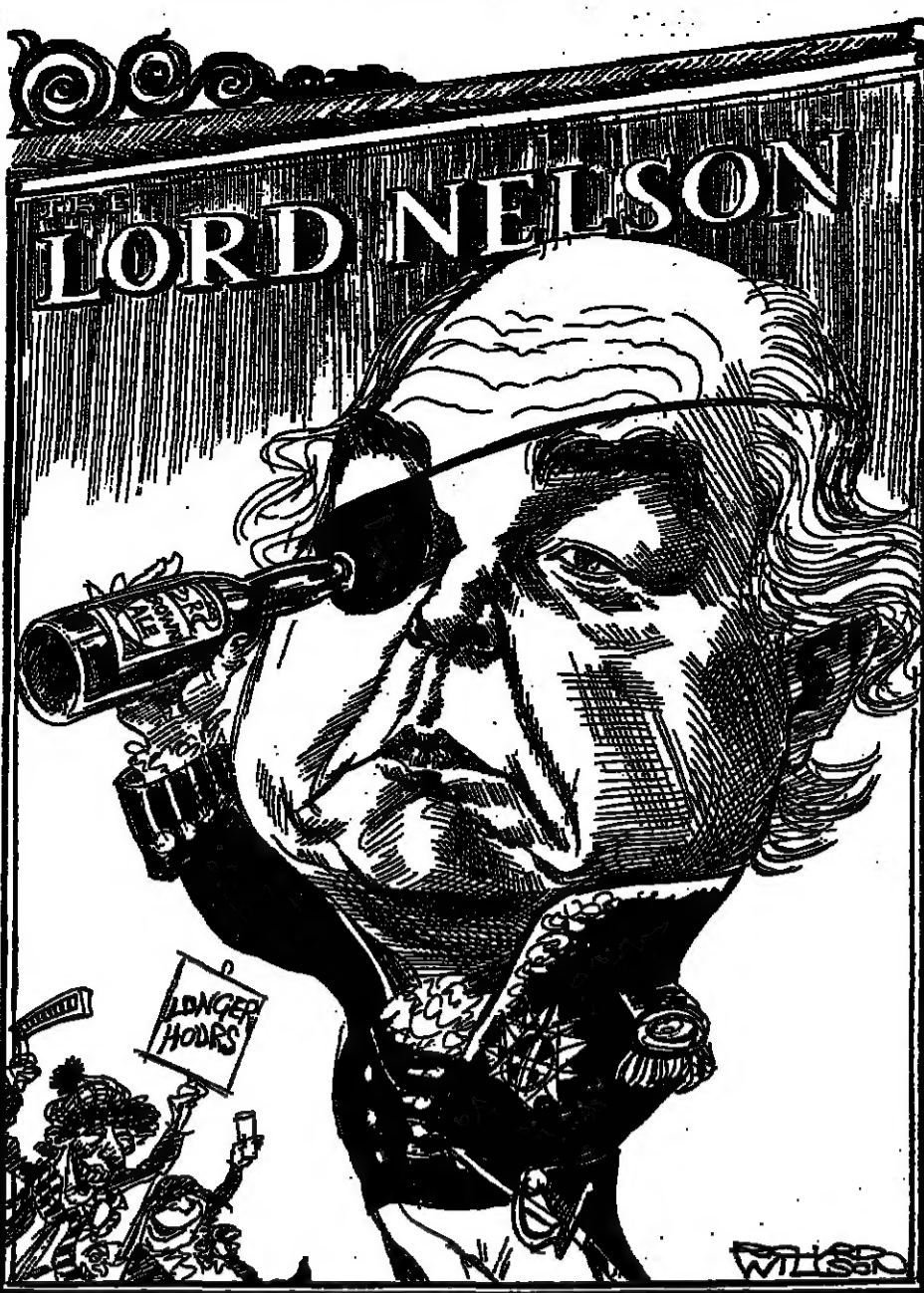
Mr Stephen Dorrell (Loughborough, C): It is essential in maintaining the efficiency of the police that the chief constables retain full responsibility for the operational control of men under their command. It is impossible to square that with any concept of democratic supervision.

Mr Hogg: There has obviously been some embarrassing shuffling in the Labour Party about the wording of their proposal. *The Times* did a useful job of exposing that with a story on its front page yesterday. I comment it to colleagues.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs: I am delighted that Mr Dorrell totally agrees with the Labour Party that there should be no control over police operations by local police authorities and that there should be no supervision of the police by the local police authorities. Neither of these is Labour Party policy and we refute both.

Mr Hogg: This Government has given priority to law and order and the figures show we have abundantly done that.

He is dodging the question. *The Times* story bears out, the Labour Party believes that while operational matters, as they define them, should continue to be under control of the police, police priorities should be under the supervision of local authorities.



Mr David Waddington: I am carefully considering what measures would be appropriate.

MPs put Government under pressure to change the licensing legislation

MPs returned to the subject of relaxing the licensing hours during Home Office questions, putting the Government under pressure to find time for a private member's Bill that was, in the view of many, denied a fair hearing in the House last week.

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, said that the Government believed there was a strong case for some relaxation of the restrictions on licensing hours and was carefully considering what measures would be appropriate.

Mr Andrew Mackay (East Berkshire, C) asked if, as a sensible attempt to amend the licensing laws was effectively talked out last Friday, the minister thought it would be right and proper for the House to have an opportunity to vote on such legislation in the near future.

Mr Waddington: I know the

disappointment felt by many MPs when the Bill was talked out and how many people there are in the House who recognize that the time has come for some reform of the licensing laws (loud Conservative and Opposition cheers). The question of whether the Government should provide time for a private member's measure is something to do with.

Mr Gordon Rafter (South Shropshire, Lab): The laws are archaic and out of date. Had it been given a fair wind last Friday the Bill would probably have been passed by the House.

It is rather a nonsense that drinking on controlled premises is so restricted when people can buy drinks in off licences, supermarkets and many other quarters, creating a situation which worries many MPs. Would he see to it that at the earliest possible opportunity there is

HOME OFFICE

some alteration in the laws to make them more sensible?

Mr Waddington: It is nice to know there is strong support from both sides of the House for some sensible reform in the Licensing Laws. Obviously, thought has to be put into the question of what precise measures of reform should be introduced.

Mr Allan Stewart (Eastwood, C), who sponsored the Licensing (Amendment) Bill, said that more than 160 MPs were present last Friday to support it. The climate of opinion was now such that the status quo was no longer an option.

It would be reasonable before the second reading debate was due to continue on March 27 for the Government to announce

either that it would give a modest allocation of time for a private member's Bill or make an absolute commitment to examine this matter. MPs on both sides of the House will have read the result of the study of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys into what has happened in Scotland since the change of the law there in 1976. Any imperative to legislate in this area is clearly a result of the fact that no deleterious results have occurred in Scotland as a result of the legislation there introduced.

Mr Robert Atkins (South Ribblesdale, C): The area he and I represent in Lancashire. If no other, it is fairly and forcibly in favour of change.

Mr Waddington: Lancashire folk are sensible folk.

Mr Laker, the Prime Minister's spokesman, said that the Government has undertaken to show that it is in the public interest that we

should reform the antiquated laws brought in 71 years ago. Mr Waddington: There has been a fair amount of research into this matter. MPs on both sides of the House will have read the result of the study of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys into what has happened in Scotland since the change of the law there in 1976. Any imperative to legislate in this area is clearly a result of the fact that no deleterious results have occurred in Scotland as a result of the legislation there introduced.

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Nuclear test ban

Essential element in the treaty is verification

The essential element in a nuclear test-ban treaty was verification, the Prime Minister said during question time in the Commons.

Mr Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, asked her to congratulate the Democratic members of the United States House of Representatives who had unanimously condemned the nuclear bomb test in the Nevada desert on Tuesday.

Mr Kinnock: Will she convey to President Reagan the regret and opposition which many people in our country feel about that test, and invite him to honour the moratorium and ask Mr Gorbachev not to make a precipitate response by beginning testing again.

Mrs Thatcher: With regard to the United States nuclear underground testing, the United States, like the United Kingdom, are substantial difficulties over verification before (completion of) a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

The arrangement agreed at Reykjavik was a step-by-step approach to nuclear testing and that they should go by way of reviewing the test-ban treaty and a treaty on peaceful nuclear explosions.

Mr Kinnock: Since the test undertaken on Tuesday was obviously outside the laboratory, will she say whether she has sought an assurance from President Reagan that it was not

DEFENCE

connected with Star Wars and was therefore not in breach of a strict interpretation of the ABM treaty which, once again, last week was wisely and strongly endorsed by the Foreign Secretary.

Mrs Thatcher: We have indicated, on the test-ban treaty, that we believe the essential element is verification. The interpretation of the ABM treaty must be a matter for the parties to the treaty.

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP), Alliance spokesman on defence: Has she seen reports

that senior figures in the United States Administration are pressing for an early decision to deploy Star Wars?

Mrs Thatcher: I have seen and frequently endorsed the original narrow definition of the ABM treaty, will she take every possible occasion to dissuade the President from listening to those who would wreck the treaty and kill the chance of a summit?

Mrs Thatcher: There is no reason to think that any decision on the deployment of SDI is imminent.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) said that welcome Soviet concessions on human rights were being made because the West insisted on remaining strong in

defence and developing SDI. Mrs Thatcher agreed that the fact that the West was strong in defence was bringing about many changes in the approach of the Soviet Union.

Mr David Amess (Barnet, C): When the Prime Minister visits Moscow next month and meets Mr Gorbachev will she stand firm in her resolve to achieve peace through multilateral negotiation rather than unilateralism, and take the opportunity to point out to him that the Soviet record on individual human rights leaves much to be desired?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I shall be discussing the prospects for arms control reduction.

Candidate tries to lose 'left' label

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Miss Deirdre Wood, Labour candidate in the Greenwich by-election, attempted with a limited degree of success yesterday to refute allegations that she is a hard left winger who is out of line with her party leadership.

At the official launch of her campaign she claimed that taunts of extremism levelled by her political opponents were taken with a "pinch of salt" by local voters and it was not a by-election issue.

Election still making up their minds which way to vote on February 26 were more interested in her views on housing and the National Health Service rather than other people's perception of where she stood in the political spectrum.

She insisted repeatedly that she supported official Labour Party policy — only to reveal doubts on the key issues of defence and the controversial creation of black sections within the party.

Although black sections are outlawed, according to official

party policy, Miss Wood, said she supported them. "But I also support Labour Party policy which is that at this time we don't have black sections."

It was, she said, all a question of tactics.

She appeared to adopt a similar approach to Labour's defence policy, and in particular, the decision that Britain should remain within Nato. She supported Labour policy, but she agreed that "any personal views at this point are moot."

She said: "I have always believed you don't force your views on people. I believe that you argue your corner. If, in a few years' time, the British people want us to consider the Nato question like any democratic party we will consider it."

Her muddled approach left the distinct impression that Miss Wood, supporter of inviting Sinn Féin spokesmen to London and twinning the capital's secondary schools with Palestinian refugee camps, is trying to hide her more radical views by proudly proclaiming that she supports all party policy.

Mr Roy Hattersley, who as deputy Labour leader happens to be decidedly in favour of Nato and against the idea of black sections, said the Conservative candidate's decision to attack Miss Wood was a damning way to conduct a by-election campaign.



Miss Wood at the New Horizon institute yesterday (Photograph: John Manning).

Peer's drugs Bill likely to be killed

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

A Labour peer's Bill to help drug companies to sell more branded drugs is expected to be killed off after the committee stage ended in turmoil.

Whips of all parties breathed a sigh of relief late on Wednesday night when discussion of the Bill had to be abandoned because there was not a quorum of 30 peers to vote on amendments. For Lord Northfield's Patents (Amendment) Bill has succeeded in embarrassing all the main political parties.

At the same time it has highlighted the lack of statutory controls on peers who

pursue issues in the House in which they have a personal and financial interest.

Lord Northfield, formerly the Labour MP Mr Donald Chapman, is a consultant for the pharmaceutical company Merck, Sharp and Dohme and is also a member of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industries.

He has been campaigning for a change in the patent laws to delay the right of drug companies to make cheap medicines based on established brand names under licence during the last four years of the drug's patent life.

Opponents, led by Lord McIntosh of Haringey, argue

that it will add hundreds of thousands of pounds to the National Health Service's drugs bill because it would delay cheap versions of medicines such as the anti-ulcer drugs, Tagamet and Zantac, coming on the market. Lord Northfield says that it would be cost-neutral.

The Government had backed the Bill, with the Department of Health and Social Security stating that it would have no important impact on the health service drugs bill.

Nearly every speaker during the second reading of the Bill had at some stage worked in the pharmaceutical industry or as a patent lawyer.

Attack on Hailsham renewed

Lord Hatch of Lusby accused Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, yesterday of suppressing government papers dealing with the Suez crisis which should have been released under the 30-year rule last month.

National security cannot be used as an excuse to withhold papers relating to Sir Anthony Eden's 1956 Government, he said, as it had already been disclosed that the Government had lied about colluding with the Israelis.

Lord Hatch, with the Labour MP Mr Tony Benn, called for Lord Hailsham's resignation last month after the latest release of papers which showed that the late Lord Mountbatten of Burma had had grave misgivings about sending the convoy to Egypt. Lord Hailsham, then First Lord of the Admiralty, for a direct order to proceed.

Renewing his attack on Lord Hailsham yesterday in the Lords, Lord Hatch said that the public was in danger of losing confidence in "the veracity of government spokesmen in both these Houses."

Lord Hailsham replied: "I do not think Lord Hatch should encourage any apprehension of that kind."

The Lord Chancellor also said that security was only one of three criteria used in deciding which documents to withhold under the 30-year rule.

Praise for police over Wapping

The Metropolitan Police, particularly those facing the pickets at the News International plant in Wapping, east London, came in for praise during question time in the Commons.

Mr Richard Holt (Langbaurgh, C) suggested that praising the police would be very much to the credit of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme were insufficient to compensate officers injured when standing up to armed robbers and those manning the picket line at Wapping.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Home Office, said that it was one of the proudest claims of the Government to have improved pay and conditions of the police to compensate them for their dangerous tasks.

Mr John Taylor (Solihull, C) said that the risk of injuries to policemen would be very much reduced if Labour MPs could restrain their warlike friends at Wapping.

Mr Mellor said that he hoped that anyone who had any influence over the Wapping pickets would call for restraint.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C) asked what it was that would happen to the Metropolitan Police if they came to be under the democratic control of Mr Bernie Grant. Who then could expect the 3 o'clock knock on the door?

Mr Douglas Hogg, the Home Secretary, replied that it would be a disaster for the Metropolitan Police as well as every other police force if the Labour Party was ever in a position to implement its policies for the supervision of the police by local authorities.

Mr The Metropolitan Police Company Fraud Investigation Squad undertook 511 investigations during 1986, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under-Secretary

of State, Home Office, said during question time.

The Government was very concerned about the increase in fraud cases over the last few years, introduced through the Criminal Justice Bill, provision for a serious fraud office with extensive powers to investigate.

Mr Douglas Hogg (Harrow, C) said that the Labour Party was overwhelmed by these new cases. Would training in depth be intensified?

Mr Hogg said that the figures were not discouraging.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday: Debate on Private member's motion on the disposal of nuclear waste. Tuesday: Debate on an Opposition motion on housing and homelessness. Wednesday: Timetable motion The Abolition of Domestic Rates (Scotland) (Harrow, C). Thursday: Debate on Government motion on employment and training initiatives. Friday: Private members' Bills. The main business in the House of Lords will be Monday: Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill, report. Tuesday: Local Government Finance Bill, second reading. Wednesday: Infant Life (Preservation) Bill, committee. Thursday: Pensions Bill, report.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's Bill: Human Rights Bill, second reading.

Action urged to save jail system from near-crisis

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government was yesterday urged to act quickly to resolve the disturbing problem of Britain's growing prison population after a report disclosed that "an already overstretched system came perilously close to breaking point".

Sir James Hennessy, Chief Inspector, said in his annual report for 1985: "If the prison population is not reduced by the use of alternatives to custody and if drastic inroads cannot be made into the time defendants spend in custody awaiting trial, then new ways of coping with the prison population will have to be found".

The report says that prison inspectors have found inmates sleeping in a disused workshop, adults and young offenders together in one jail, an unused new workshop complex costing £600,000, and are worried about an outbreak at another prison of salmonella poisoning.

The disused workshop had been turned into an emergency dormitory. "There was not much that staff could do about this except make the best of the appalling conditions".

At Lincoln prison it was almost impossible to ensure that adults and young offenders were always held separately from each other. Lack of space at Wandsworth prison prevented the proper separation of unconvicted and convicted prisoners.

Yet at some other establishments the main preoccupation was the lack of inmates. It led to dormitories and cells being taken out of use, training courses becoming under-subscribed and difficulties in keeping workshops and work parties adequately manned.

"We were compelled to recommend a review of the use being made of accommodation".

At Exeter, a new and extensive workshop complex built the previous year at a cost of £600,000 had not been brought into use. At Lincoln, a modern and well-equipped three-storey workshop, ca-

pable of employing more than 300 prisoners, was operating on average for a mere eight hours a week, primarily because of a shortage of discipline officers to supervise inmates.

"If the situation is not to deteriorate, with more prisoners being kept locked up with nothing to do, action will be needed".

After an outbreak of salmonella poisoning at Leeds prison, the annual report said: "If public confidence in the standards of hygiene applied to public institutions, such as prisons, is to be maintained, it may well be that the ending of crown immunity is a price that will have to be paid".

Overtime was found to be essential in every establishment inspected in the year to allow for all the tasks necessary for normal working.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, referred to Sir James's proposal for more local jails and said action was already being taken to convert Hull to a local prison. Further plans were in the pipeline to introduce a remand role for Liverpool, Preston and Stafford.

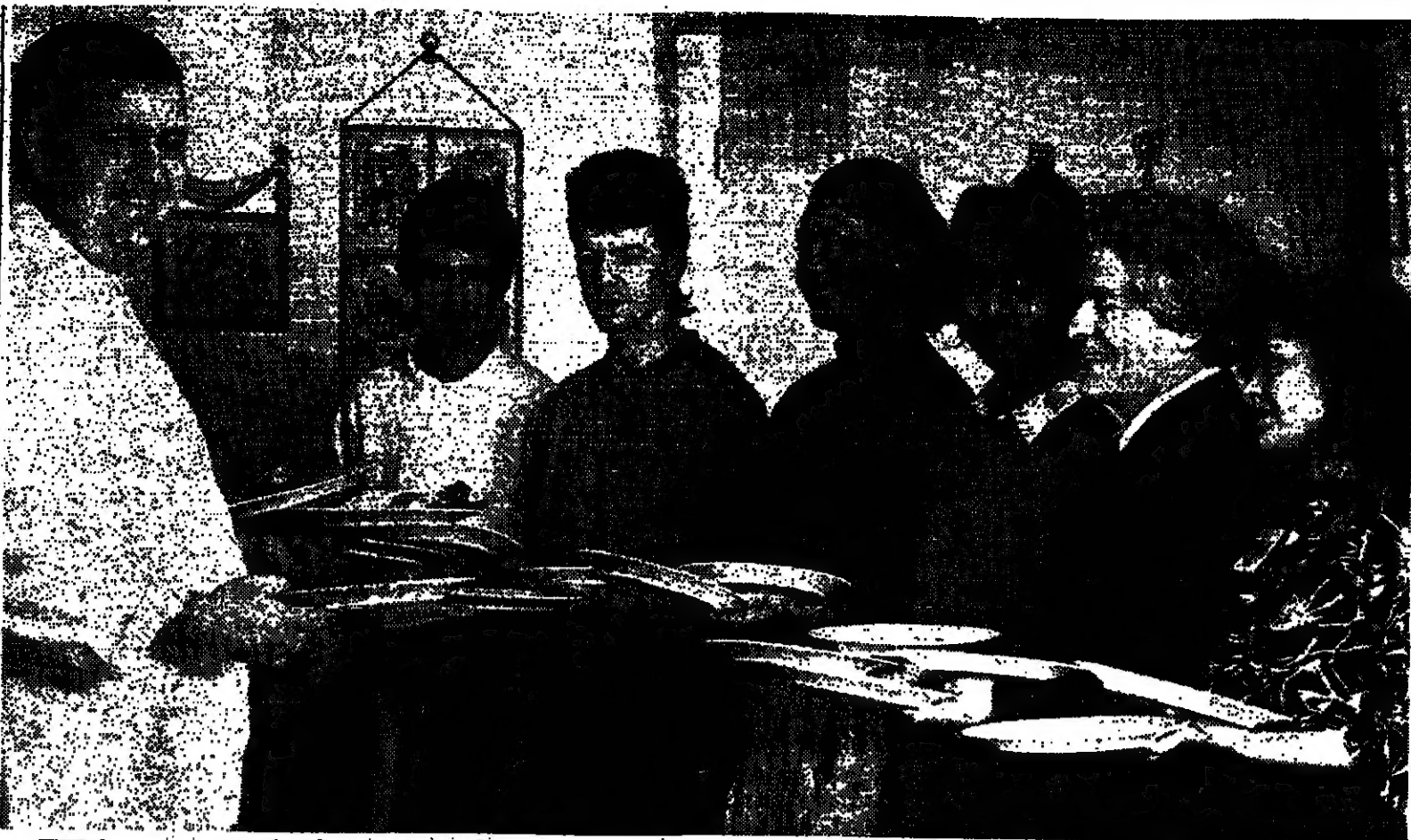
Mr Hurd said the Government accepted that some prisons' workshops were not fully used. New working arrangements proposed by the Government should ease the problem of officers being called away from them to other duties.

In the next few years the building and refurbishment programme would improve physical conditions in the worst affected establishments and substantially reduce overcrowding.

Miss Vivien Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the report described prison conditions as "appalling".

It gave a warning that the system was perilously close to breaking point.

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons 1985, House of Commons Paper 123 (Stationery Office, £3.50).



They also wait who only stand and serve

Carrying several hot plates and keeping them straight is a difficult art, as Mr Joe Rainert, a head chef, shows this group of visiting trainee waiters and waitresses.

They are taking part in a scheme called 'Open Door' 87, aimed at encouraging people to train in food service and bar work, to ease the desperate shortage of hotel and restaurant staff.

He praised the new scheme, set up by the Hotel and Catering Training Board and the Manpower Services Commission, saying it gave people the chance to see the catering world before being flung in at the deep end.

"It is terribly hard to recruit waiting staff, especially those who speak English," Mr Rainert said.

"In this country it is seen as a last resort, an upstairs downstairs thing, and the hours are unpopular."

He praised the new scheme, set up by the Hotel and Catering Training Board and the Manpower Services Commission, saying it gave people the chance to see the catering world before being flung in at the deep end.

Training continues on a day release basis at the students' chosen place of work for six weeks, after which they can take City and Guilds examinations.

The MSC said pay is £40 a week while on the two-week course, and about £100 a week, plus tips and meals, when trained and working.

Mr Rainert's demonstration took place at Barton's restaurant in Ealing, west London.

(Photograph: Graham Wood)

The judge said he was satisfied that Mr Frederick Grainger, a securities clerk, and Mr Arthur Sumner, a carpenter, had brandished weapons in order to discourage Colonel Owen, aged 57, getting in. And he found it "totally astonishing" that Mr Sumner had been told to use force if necessary.

The bank had sought possession of the property, at Ellesmere, Shropshire, from bankrupt Colonel Owen because they were mortgages for about £120,000.

The judge said the colonel should have known he was acting illegally when he went to the property to try to get his wife in to establish her matrimonial right to it.

Colonel fails to win eviction damages

Retired Colonel David Owen and his wife, Barbara, have lost their High Court action in which they claimed their lives were "devastated" by armed bank officials who took over their home.

Deputy High Court Judge Michael Ogden, QC, rejected their claim that Lloyds Bank employees used more force than necessary to keep them out of their £153,000 cottage when they repossessed it.

The couple had claimed that a bank manager and two staff threatened them with pickaxe handles and a jemmy, assaulted Mrs Owen, cutting her hand and abused them.

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WHY JUNE 30 IS IMPORTANT TO A MAN IN YOUR POSITION.



Shooting dilemma for rector

A country clergyman who is a member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has defended his role as head of a pheasant shooting syndicate (Craig Seton writes).

The Rev William Quinney, rector of Nailstone, a village near Hinckley, Leicestershire, also shoots magpies and crows because they raid the nests of songbirds.

He said: "I enjoy shooting, although I agree there is a slight moral dilemma in a clergyman killing things."

"But, it is very much part of the way of life of the countryside and my parishioners do not object."

Mr Quinney, aged 53, a former accountant, rears up to 300 pheasants a year in the grounds of his rectory and releases them to be shot by his syndicate of farmers and paid guns.

But, he admits he is aware of a new version of a famous hymn which is sung as a joke by some in the locality.

It is: "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, old Quinney shoots them all".

Car firm used royal crest

John Wildy copied the royal crest off a cornflakes packet and used it on business letters for his car hire firm because he had once driven guests to Buckingham Palace garden parties, a court was told yesterday.

Wildy, aged 39, admitted three charges of pretending he had the royal warrant and was fined £450 by Bristol magistrates.

The court was told that he told a young couple who hired him for their wedding that his "Crown-Royal International" limousine hire firm was "By Royal Appointment".

But later the couple cancelled their booking after seeing a television consumer programme about the firm, based in Weston-super-Mare, Avon.

When Wildy was confronted by a trading standards officer he admitted that he had no royal warrant.

The court was told that Wildy, of North End Road, Acton, west London, had apologized to Commander Hugh Fennell, of the Royal Warrant Association for using the crest without permission.

Meat bargains in store as prices start to drop

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Many meat prices are down by as much as 5p a lb this weekend. Good buys include stewing steak and fore ribs of beef at about £1.46 a lb. New Zealand leg of lamb £1.50, shoulder at 86p and whole leg of pork £1.05-£1.09 a lb.

Thanks to the mild weather, fish supplies are also cheap and plentiful. Prices vary considerably from region to region but average about £1.85 a lb for large cod fillets, haddock £1.92, whiting £1.38, plaice £2.06 and coley £1.07.

Potatoes, now back in favour with nutritionists, account for 60 per cent of all the vegetables we eat. Quality is generally reliable and prices range from 11p to 13p a lb for whites and 12-15p for reds. Brussels sprouts at 18-30p a lb have suffered from last month's cold weather and cauliflower are very expensive at 80-£1.20 each, but broccoli 50-80p a lb, leeks 40-60p, spring greens 25-30p, carrots 10-20p, and parsnips 15-25p a lb are all good value.

The choice of fruit for this time of year is wide. There are oranges 18-20p each, clementines 35-60 a lb, satsumas 35-45p a lb, grapefruit 10-25p each, apples 25-50p a lb, pears

30-75p. Bananas are much better quality this week, between 40-50p a lb. From the Cape and Botswana there are superb seedless grapes between £1.25 and £1.70 a lb, and varieties from Spain 55-80p a lb.

Apricots 60-85p a lb are down and plums 50p-£1.25 a lb and lyces £1-£1.60 a lb are also available. Sharon fruit 14-25p each and marmalade oranges 20-30p a lb are near the end of season. Early forced rhubarb from Yorkshire is slightly cheaper this week at 45-60p a lb.

Meat promotions at shops and supermarkets this week are: Bejam stewing lamb 55p a lb and pork chops £1.09 a lb; Sainsbury's frozen chicken 42p a lb and whole leg of pork 72p a lb; Tesco British Grade A fresh boneless chicken breasts £2.69 a lb and frozen force fed chickens 30p a lb; Presto steak and kidney £1.09 a lb and boneless roast beef £1.48 a lb.

Marks & Spencer whole fresh chickens large and extra large 75p a lb; small and medium 69p a lb; Asda braising steak £1.29 a lb and minced beef 89p a lb.

If you're undecided about changing your company's source of energy, here's a timely reminder from British Coal.

The Government Grant Scheme, which could provide your company with up to 25% of the capital costs of converting to coal-firing, is due to close for new applications on June 30, 1987.

NO MORE GUESSING GAMES

British Coal has kept its steady competitive price profile through energy crisis after energy crisis. Meantime, oil costs have gone through the roof and

back again with monotonous regularity. Oil prices are low now, but what happens next could make a nonsense of your company's forward planning.

RIGHT IN TOUCH WITH TECHNOLOGY

Today's coal-fired plant is a credit to British technology, bristling with new methods of coal handling and burning. And it comes in every shape and size—to suit every shape and size of company.

FOLLOW THE LEADERS

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recently converted to British Coal. All with a little help from the Government Grant Scheme.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Britain confirms Argentine links

After weeks of denials that secret indirect talks with Buenos Aires were taking place through the Americans, Whitehall yesterday conceded that there had been an exchange of ideas (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

The justification given for earlier denials was that ideas were not the same as talks and that the Americans were acting as a channel of communication rather than as mediators.

The Foreign Office said that the "ideas" centred on management of fish stocks around the Falklands and methods of avoiding incidents.

Buenos Aires had made suggestions to the US State Department which had been passed to the British Embassy in Washington.

These were received in London "some time last month" and Britain had sent a reply through the same channel.

Infant burned

Bonn — Police in Hamburg are investigating the death of a new born baby boy, who was burned by an incubator heating pad in a City hospital (John England writes).

The baby, born nine weeks prematurely, was put in the incubator immediately after its birth. The thermostat was set to a correct temperature, but did not switch itself off when it reached that level, a hospital spokesman said yesterday.

New Greek Cabinet

Athens — Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, in an unexpected Cabinet reshuffle, has replaced seven members, including his son, George, and assigned them to re-investigate his demoralized Socialist Party (Mario Modiano writes). The new Cabinet, with 23 ministers and 20 under-secretaries, was sworn in last night.

The Prime Minister said his Government needed to work hard in the next two years to secure a third term. "In this critical course the Government will need more than ever before party support for its policies." However, the Government's economic austerity and its accommodating posture towards the US have caused support within the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) to flag.

Vanunu ends fast

Jerusalem — Mr Mordechai Vanunu, *The Sunday Times* nuclear informant, called off his hunger strike yesterday despite losing three petitions in the Jerusalem District Court to be allowed more privileges while awaiting trial for treason and espionage (Ian Murray writes).

After fasting for 34 days to win the privileges, he has become very weak and Mr Amnon Zichroni, his lawyer, persuaded him to eat again.

Reagan celebrates 76

Washington — President Reagan, right, is 76 today, and has been receiving congratulations from family, friends, supporters and political opponents alike (Michael Binyon writes).

As the oldest President ever to lead the United States, he is expected to make his usual light-hearted jokes about his age while engaging in vigorous and well-publicized speeches and appearances to prove he is fit, alert and in full control. Yesterday he took part in the national prayer breakfast in Congress, an annual event at the start of the new session, and one of the few occasions in US public life when religion is specifically allowed to intrude. The President joined with Vice-president George Bush and the Rev Billy Graham, the evangelist, in silent prayer for American hostages in Lebanon.



Kohl may refuse Hamadi extradition

By Andrew McEwen, and John England in Bonn

Caught between conflicting pressures from Mrs Thatcher and domestic opinion, the Bonn Government is understood to be developing an unexpected solution to its hostage crisis.

Depending on the outcome of a West German police investigation, Chancellor Kohl may be in a position to refuse American demands for the extradition of a suspected Lebanese terrorist, Mohammed Ali Hamadi. Two West German hostages in Beirut face a death threat if he is extradited.

At the same time, Herr Kohl would avoid any appearance of buckling under to pressure. Mr Hamadi would be tried in West Germany on serious charges unrelated to

the hijacking on which he is wanted by the Americans.

West German sources hinted that such a solution would be favoured by Bonn, but that it relied on police obtaining adequate evidence.

It would be seen in Whitehall as vastly preferable to an exchange, especially as there remains a strong possibility that a cousin of Mr Hamadi is linked to the disappearance of Mr Terry Waite.

Mrs Thatcher's ability to sustain her "no deals" policy if the kidnapping of Mr Waite should be confirmed is seen in Whitehall as depending partly on the German crisis.

Concern that British public support could be eroded if Bonn is seen to make a deal was underscored by the Prime Minister's letter to the Chancellor which reminded him of the firm line on terrorism ad-

opted by the EEC Twelve in December.

There are growing signs that German public opinion expects Herr Kohl to save the lives of Herr Rudolf Cordes and Herr Alfred Schmidt have done nothing to reassure Whitehall.

Herr Heino Kopietz, a West German senior economist at the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London, reflecting a widely held view, said most Germans would favour a deal.

However, German sources said it was wrong to assume that Herr Kohl's choice lay between extraditing Mr Hamadi or trading him for the hostages.

It is more likely, they consider, that he will have to decide whether Mr Hamadi should be tried in the United States or in West Germany. They discount suggestions that he not be tried at all.

If extradited, Mr Hamadi's trial would be based on his alleged involvement in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA

airliner, in which an American was murdered. If tried in Germany, the charge would relate to the June 1985 bombing of Frankfurt airport, in which three died and 42 were injured.

West Germany and the US have no extradition treaty, but do have an agreement to co-operate on legal cases. At the same time, Germany's constitution prohibits extradition to a country where the death penalty exists, unless assurances are given that it will not be applied.

The US State Department gave such assurances, satisfying Bonn's lawyers, but not the kidnappers of Herr Schmidt and Herr Cordes.

The original charges against Mr Hamadi stem from the discovery that three containers marked "apple juice" found in his possession, in fact contained liquid explosives.

Subsequently his brother, Ali Abbas Hamadi, aged 30, was held on suspicion of terrorist offences.

No hiding place in the Gaza pressure cooker

From Ian Murray, Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip

They have been clearing up after this week's disturbances. The bulldozers have ripped out the bushes along the main road near Maghazi Camp, so there is now no hiding place for anyone throwing stones at passing cars.

Here, in the scruffy outskirts of a once thriving town, "volunteer" Arab youths clear away the charred, sticky remains of burnt tyre road-blocks under the unfriendly gaze of an Israeli patrol. Scorch marks on the roadway here and there around the town mark the scenes of other angry protests.

Trouble flared up and down the Strip this week. Tempers

boiled over after a 14-year-old boy from Maghazi was shot and killed and a history student at the Gaza Islamic University was deported to Jordan. Palestinian youths threw stones at Israeli cars and Jewish settlers set up road-blocks.

Such incidents are so commonplace in Gaza that they are rarely reported, adding to the sense of isolation and frustration of an area with the world's highest population density after Hong Kong. Army patrols are now everywhere, carrying out an order "to keep the population silent".

In the words of Mr Bernard



Mills, the British director of the UN Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa) in Gaza: "It is like a pressure cooker with the safety valve screwed right down, allowing no release."

Since he took over as director of Unrwa operations in the Strip last November, he has noticed that the often violent

demonstrations were virtually all spontaneous and unorganized. His chief concern is that they are all mounted by children and youths up to the age of 24. Increasingly, too, girls have been involved. The older people are a quiescent generation, who have grown up under more or less benign occupation.

Mr Mills, a former soldier with the Suffolk Regiment, has found the Israeli authorities anxious to co-operate in trying to keep the peace, and has sympathies with the difficulties they are facing in dealing with violent demonstrations.

"You have scared young people being policed by frightened Israeli soldiers. Fear

communicates. And then there are young kids who are not frightened at all. It's a game for them."

"If something went wrong four or five could easily get killed, with disastrous consequences."

"We are dealing with a new generation. There is no light at the end of the tunnel for the people of Gaza. Unlike in the West Bank, they haven't even an economy that can be built on. They are 100 per cent dependent on Israel."

"I have never really seen so much general despair. If you are a Palestinian, what is there? For the 16-year-old, what future is there?"

In Khan Yunis that is the view in the home of Moh-

ammed Youssef Shaker Dahlan, the deported history student, who Israeli security forces claim was the local leader of al-Shabab, the youth movement of Fatah, military wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). His brother, Hassan, and 17 other members of the family live in a relatively spacious house in the town's camp.

"There is no condition which is worse than the present," Hassan said. "It is very, very dark. If things continue, there will be no peace."

"If being a Palestinian means who are deported, then everyone here should be deported," Hassan said.

US holds talks with Turkey as hostage crisis tension mounts

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan and Mr Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister of Turkey, conferred on the hostage crisis in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war yesterday as one of the biggest peacetime American naval armadas moved in the eastern Mediterranean.

The White House, the State Department and the Pentagon insisted in repeated statements that there was no intention of using the armada of 35 warships for a military operation against terrorist bases in Lebanon or that any hostage rescue attempt was contemplated.

However, the mood could change abruptly if any of the American hostages were to be killed. Attacks on terrorist bases in the Bekaa valley would then become extremely likely, senior officials believe. It is noted here that the principal allies in Europe have cautioned the Administration strongly against staging a military strike now.

According to officials here, the allies have warned that a strike could bring death to remaining Western hostages there and damage American interests throughout the Arab world.

Mr Ozal expressed his deep concern about the Middle East situation, especially as Turkey, a key Nato country, is bound by Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Mediterranean.

Senior American officials went out of their way yesterday to cool the crisis atmosphere. A flotilla of five ships carrying 1,900 Marines was reported heading west, away from Lebanon. Two US aircraft carriers were still off the Lebanese coast in readiness to attack terrorist targets in Lebanon if retaliation was ordered.

The US has also sent two or more naval vessels northwards in the Gulf as a show of support for friendly moderate Arab countries following Iran's military advances in the Basra area.

Britain, which supported the US bombing of Libya last April, is understood to have joined France in opposing US

efforts to convene a high-level meeting in Rome this weekend to discuss terrorism.

It is apparent that Britain and France were concerned that possible military options might be discussed at the meeting, which it was felt might send the wrong signal to the kidnappers in the present tense situation.

Britain is particularly concerned about the safety of Mr Terry Waite, the Anglican envoy. There are now signs that the Administration is abandoning efforts for the meeting, which would have involved Foreign Ministry officials from the seven major industrialized countries.

Administration officials reiterated yesterday that no deal would be struck with the kidnappers and the third countries would be encouraged not to make deals. "The hostage takers need to be aware of that," the State Department said.

● BEIRUT: In an unexpected expression of suspicion on Mr Terry Waite's work in Lebanon, a leading Shia Muslim scholar yesterday was quoted as saying that the missing envoy had embarked himself in a "propaganda mission" that was instrumental for Washington (Juan Carlos Guncuio writes).

Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, a respected figure regarded as the spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or "Party of God", said: "I believe that Waite came on a propaganda mission for the interests of the internal situation in the United States."

The American Administration needed Waite's mission in order to make the American public opinion believe that after the arms deal with Iran, the hostage affair was not forgotten and put in the freezer.

"This is what I understood during my meeting with Waite," he was quoted as saying in reference to a private meeting both men, helped by a translator, had at Sheikh Fadlallah's home four days before Mr Waite vanished.

UN relief workers desert west Beirut

From Juan Carlos Guncuio, Beirut

Eight more foreigners, all of them working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (Unrwa), have quietly left west Beirut in yet another sign that even humanitarian agencies have become an endangered species in the lawless Muslim sector of the capital.

Their departure, explained by an Unrwa communiqué as a result "of the general situation in the Beirut area", was only announced after the foreign employees had settled in the relative safety of east Beirut.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is perhaps the only foreign organization which does not foresee changes. "We are taking certain precautions, but we are not leaving," said a young Swiss volunteer of the ICRC.

The move by Unrwa has further reduced the already small number of foreigners living in west Beirut despite the ever-present threat of kidnappers. Most Americans, French, West Germans and Britons have finally heeded calls by their governments and have left for good.

It took the abduction of two Saudi Arabians, two West Germans, three Americans, one Indian, one Frenchman and two other foreigners of unclear nationality in a two-week period to bring about the realization that no foreigner is safe in west Beirut.

Unrwa has extra reason to be cautious. Mr Alec Collett, a British journalist on assignment for the agency, was kidnapped in west Beirut in March 1985. A group calling itself the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims claimed responsibility for his abduction and said he was "executed" shortly after the US attack on Libya in April last year, but his body was never found.

Beirut, which little more than a decade ago was home for about 100,000 foreigners, is now a city with a dwindling foreign community. Some estimates put the number of foreigners in west Beirut at no more than 60, including ICRC staff, a few officers and soldiers of the UN peacekeeping force (Unifil), a few teachers and about eight foreign correspondents.

The Gulf War Tehran's frigates single out vessels bound for Kuwait

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

In a dramatic change of tactics in the Gulf tanker war, Iran has begun mounting sea-borne attacks exclusively against Kuwait-bound shipping, in some cases ordering its Navy to fire missiles at merchant ships only minutes after Iranian naval officers have inspected the vessels and "cleared" them to continue their voyage.

Iranian frigates fired Italian-made Sea Killer missiles at ships plying Kuwait trade routes during the past four weeks, in one instance shooting five of them at the British liquid petroleum gas carrier, Isomeria.

Remarkably, none of the missiles exploded and Royal Navy bomb disposal officers who later extracted the rockets from the ship off Fujairah discovered that an expiry date of 1982 was printed on the side of the warheads.

"It's a very cynical business," a ship's officer in Dubai said yesterday. "Four times now Iranian frigates have stopped vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and an Iranian officer has boarded the ships to ask where they are going and what they are carrying."

In each instance, the Ira-

nian naval officer has politely thanked the ship's master for his co-operation, wished him "bon voyage" and a good trip, returned to his frigate, and then fired a missile at the ship.

So far this year, the Iranian frigates — reported to have been manufactured by Vosper Thornycroft — have attacked the World Dawn and the Atlantic Dignity, two vessels registered in Hong Kong, the Saudiah, which sails under a Kuwaiti flag, the Cosmos Jupiter, the British-registered Isomeria and the Norwegian-owned tanker Ambia Fortune. All were carrying cargo to Kuwait or travelling there to collect oil.

The Omami Navy took the missile off the Saudiah, commandeering a fishing boat to transport the unexploded warhead to shore. A missile fired by an Iranian frigate at the oil tanker Berger Saga last month missed its target altogether. Photographs shown to *The Times* here show that the missile — about 6 ft long — is stamped "Mark III" and dated 1982.

The attack on the Isomeria caused some controversy among merchant seamen in the Gulf, since the vessel had earlier been under escort by a British frigate, identified here as HMS Andromeda. British authorities have denied local reports that the Andromeda's engines broke down and that she was unable to help the Isomeria when the Iranians fired at it.

During the past week Iraqi jets have attacked four more Iranian oil tankers with missiles — two of them Exocets — raising the average monthly attack rate in the tanker war to its highest figure since the Gulf conflict started more than six years ago.

In 1985 47 ships were attacked, and last year at least 98 vessels were struck.

Shipping brokers in London said on Wednesday that Lloyd's Marine Insurers had increased the cost of insuring ships sailing to Kuwait by 50 per cent, bringing them into line with vessels trading directly with Iran or Iraq.

US warships were yesterday believed to be cruising off the coast of Kuwait — at Kuwait's private request — although shipping sources here say that the US naval unit comprises only the usual five warships which patrol the Gulf.

Frankfurt flight for US 'spy'

Tehran (Reuters) — The American journalist, Gerald Seib, who was expelled by Iran after being detained on espionage charges, is being flown to Frankfurt in West Germany, diplomats said last night.

They said they understood that Mr Seib, Cairo-based correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*, had been freed from detention. He was among about 90 journalists who took up an invitation

Iran launches missile attack on Baghdad

Baghdad (Reuters) — An Iranian surface-to-surface missile hit Baghdad yesterday, the ninth such attack on the city this year, but there was no immediate word of casualties.

In Bahrain, an Iranian Tehran war spokesman said continuous air raids had brought the Gulf warfront to the cities of Iran and warned Baghdad residents to evacuate the Iraqi capital to escape imminent retaliatory attacks.

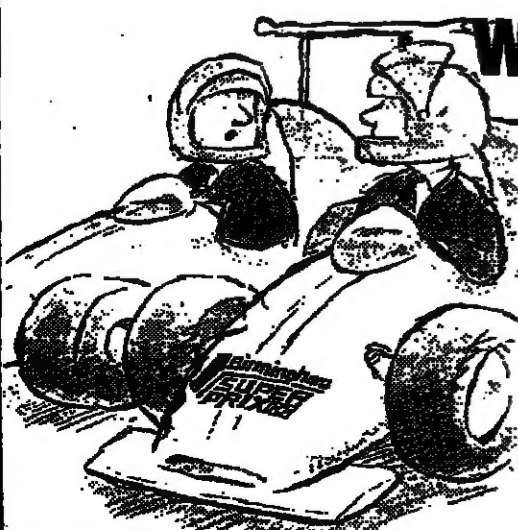
An Iraqi military spokesman reported fresh air strikes on three principal Iranian centres and a government newspaper said raids would continue until Tehran accepted "a complete and comprehensive peace".

Iran has reported more than 3,000 people killed and 9,300 injured in Iraqi air and missile strikes since Tehran launched a cross-border offensive into southern Iraq on January 9.

Iraqi figures show more than 250 civilians killed and 1,000 injured in Iranian air and artillery bombardments in the same period, not including an undisclosed number of casualties from eight missile strikes on Baghdad.

Iranian officials have told people to build and use shelters for protection against Iraqi attacks. The war information headquarters spokesman, Mr Kamal Kharrazi, said the use of air raid shelters was "a symbol of resistance, not a sign of fear."

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THE Big Heart of England



Mr Seib: banned for ever from returning to Iran.

from the Iranian Government to report on an Iranian war offensive in southern Iraq.

Mr Seib, who was arrested on Saturday, was accused of "serving for the Zionist regime (Israel)". The Iranian Prime Minister, Mr Mir Hossein Mousavi, said he had been found "collecting abnormal information" at the war front.

The United States rejected the charges and demanded Mr Seib's release. He was ordered to be expelled and banned from returning to Iran by the Ministry of Information (Internal Security) yesterday.

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Inquiry finds flaws in US spy-catching operations

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

An 18-month investigation into America's spy-catching operations has revealed a chronic picture of "dangerous laxity" and security failures. It describes "a puzzling, almost nonchalant attitude" by some senior US intelligence officials and says many operations were disasters.

The investigation, by the House intelligence committee, was prompted by a spate of spy cases beginning in the spring of 1985, when John Walker, his son, brother and friend were arrested on charges of spying for the Soviet Union. Their spy ring was described as the most damaging in US history.

During the past two years 27 Americans have been charged with espionage and all but one of those brought to trial has been found guilty.

The committee found "serious security deficiencies" and "manifest failures" that were the results of major problems in the system rather than "mere aberrations".

The report said: "Any one of the weaknesses identified by the committee would be of concern. What has emerged is a pattern that causes deep

disarray about the way US intelligence is managed."

The inquiry found "faulty hiring practices, poor management of probationary employees, thoughtless firing practices, lax security practices, inadequate inter-agency co-operation — even bungled surveillance of a prime suspect".

It said there was a dangerous laxity in the communications and computer security practices of many federal agencies. Background investigations of people being considered for sensitive positions were so superficial that they often did not discover alcohol, drug and financial problems.

The report found the case of Edward Lee Howard, a former officer of the Central Intelligence Agency who spied for the Soviet Union and now lives in Moscow, particularly distressing.

Even though he "betrayed the most sensitive operations of the United States in Moscow" he was allowed to slip away while under surveillance by the FBI. Howard should never have been hired in the first place because he had an "extensive history of using hard drugs".



Before blast-off today on a trip to Mir, the Soviet space station, Commander Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Lavtchenko, flight engineer, relax at the Baikonur cosmodrome.

Sir Rudolf Bing's wealth frozen

From Charles Bremner, New York

A New York judge has barred the new wife of Sir Rudolf Bing, aged 85, the fiery British impresario who ran the Metropolitan Opera for two decades, from further access to his wealth because he is "currently unable to make rational decisions".

The marriage took place on Sir Rudolf's birthday on January 9, two days after the couple were served with papers to appear in the court.

The impresario, who was knighted in 1971, was said by his lawyer to have suffered from increasing senility since his wife, Nina, died in 1983.

The judge ordered Miss Douglas to return Sir Rudolf to his New York flat and ruled that she "shall in no way deplete or diminish" his assets.

The war against drug trafficking

Colombia cocaine king flown to America after gun battle

Tampa, Florida (AP) — Carlos Lehder Rivas, one of Colombia's most notorious cocaine traffickers, arrived in the United States to face drug-related charges yesterday, after being captured by soldiers in a shoot-out in Colombia. Federal authorities said Lehder was to appear later in a federal court in Tampa.

Lehder, aged 37, is wanted in Jacksonville, Florida, and Miami on narcotics and racketeering charges. A Miami indictment alleges that he is a member of the world's largest drug-smuggling rings, which is responsible for 80 per cent of US cocaine imports.

The Colombian Defence Ministry said that Lehder was put on a US Air Force plane shortly after his arrest.

The mission where Lehder was captured is one of dozens maintained by drug traffickers in the area called Rio Negro, near Medellin in north-western Colombia.

Lehder is one of 109 Colombians whom the United States has sought since the two countries signed an extradition treaty in 1980. Thirteen have been sent to the US.

BOGOTA: Lehder was simply too hot to handle, or rather too big a fish ever to be held for long in a Colombian jail (Geoffrey Matthews writes). If he had any right to appeal against extradition under the 1980 treaty, and some lawyers

argue that he did — it was waived in order to speed him to North America. Any protracted legal battle in Colombian courts would inevitably have led to a spiral of death threats and violence against members of the already traumatized judicial system.

The only condition the Government insisted on before handing Lehder over to US authorities was that he would not be tried on murder charges for which under US law he could have faced the death penalty.

The order for his extradition was originally signed by President Barco's predecessor, Señor Belisario Betancur, in May 1984, just after the assassination of the Justice Minister, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, by gunmen in Bogotá.

Lehder has close ties with the fugitive US financier, Robert Vesco.

During his trial, expected to take place in Miami, the DEA plans to produce evidence that Lehder has also trafficked cocaine through Nicaragua and Cuba with the knowledge and co-operation of both governments.

But one key witness will be missing: Barry Seal, a US pilot who flew many drug smuggling missions for the "cartel" and later turned DEA informant. Mr Seal was murdered by gunmen in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in February last year. The DEA alleges that Lehder and Escobar ordered the hit.



Carlos Lehder: too hot to handle in Latin America.

Belgians pioneer a cure for baldness

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Belgium, always in the forefront of European affairs, is pioneering yet another tangible benefit for EEC (male) citizens — a cure for baldness.

A new wonder remedy for men with hair loss was launched yesterday in Brussels in an atmosphere deliberately distant from the fairground quick cure of yesterday. Instead of hawkers and exhortations, there were senior Belgian and American medical staff on hand, with a plethora of research charts and dermatological statistics.

The lotion, marketed under the brand name Regaine Topical Solution, is a product of Upjohn, the multinational pharmaceutical company. Belgium is the first EEC country to grant the remedy a licence.

The cure for what the medical panel referred to as alopecia androgenetica, or focal pericardial alopecia, is the tissue sheath of apparently normal anagen follicles — in other words, baldness — was discovered by accident 20 years ago by American scientists conducting research into Minoxidil, a drug for the treatment of hypertension.

There was this bald American Airlines pilot with high blood pressure," observed Dr Richard de Ville, formerly of the US Army medical centre at San Antonio, Texas, and now Upjohn's clinical research manager. "After treatment with Minoxidil he not only felt great, he also had hair on his bald spot."

Tests on rats and monkeys followed, and eventually tests on 4,000 humans in the United States. The results, Dr de Ville said, were at first equivocal, but five years ago became convincing enough to persuade Belgium to allow 14 of its scientific institutes to participate in the research.

Dr de Ville, who sports a fine head of silvery hair, said he had not tried Regaine himself. Neither had his two Belgian colleagues at the launch, both of whom had receding hairlines ("fronto-temporal loss"). Disappointingly, no sample bottle of the lotion, which will not be sold until next month — when it will be available on prescription only at a cost of \$52 (£34) a bottle for one month's treatment — was on hand for the press to try.

Dr de Ville gave a warning that the lotion was not effective in every case and left 10 per cent of patients thinking on top, with all the "emotional trauma, anxiety, frustration and rage" which apparently accompanies hair loss. A further 40 to 50 per cent of patients were only guaranteed a small hair gain.

On the other hand, there had been good results with men in their thirties (tests on women are in their early stages), provided the lotion was applied twice daily.

Doctors should learn to regard a patient's desire for a baldness cure as a genuine medical matter rather than merely cosmetic, the panel said. There were few side effects, except, in a very few cases, the development of "priapism", defined medically as "prolonged enlarged erection outside sexual intercourse".

A proved connection at last, perhaps, between baldness and virility? No, the doctors concluded hastily, the condition was so exceptional as to be barely worth discussing.

Philippine general refuses to plead

Manila (Reuters) — A general and 21 soldiers refused to plead yesterday when arraigned for retrial over the 1983 murder of President Corason Aquino's husband, Benigno.

Two colonels told the court they did not want to enter a plea because they had already been acquitted on the same charges.

Others said they were not ready to plead until the Supreme Court ruled whether the court had jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court ordered retrial of the case involving 26 men, including former armed forces chief General Fabian Ver, after a civilian-backed military rebellion last year deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos and installed Aquino in power.

Defence lawyers opposed retrial on the grounds that a person cannot be tried twice for the same offence. They sought postponement of yesterday's proceedings. The court rejected this and set trial for March 16 after entering not guilty pleas for all.

Children die

Johannesburg (AP) — Strong winds and rain collapsed the roof of a day care centre in a township near Pietersburg in northern Transvaal, crushing to death seven black children aged 3 to 5 and seriously injuring six others.

Indian trip

Delhi — Mr Joe Clark, Canada's Secretary for External Affairs, arrived yesterday at the start of a week-long official visit that will include the signing of a new extradition treaty with India.

Aerial deaths

Dhaka — Three people were electrocuted and one fell to his death off a roof trying to rig television antennas in the latest case among Bangladeshis for Indian TV programmes.

Peak climbed

Kathmandu (AP) — Three South Koreans and three Nepalese Sherpa guides have climbed the 20,155ft Lhotse West Peak in the Mount Everest region.

Off runway

Munich (Reuters) — Nine people were injured, one seriously, when a 16-seater twin-engine aircraft skidded off the runway when its landing gear broke off on landing at Munich airport.

Groom drowns

Jakarta (Reuters) — A bridegroom-to-be and his parents were among 12 people drowned when an overloaded boat taking them to the marriage ceremony sank in a West Java reservoir.

Army dodgers

Stockholm (Reuters) — The Swedish Army is advertising in an attempt to cut down the number of men trying to dodge compulsory military training refresher courses, which Swedish men must attend regularly up to the age of 47.

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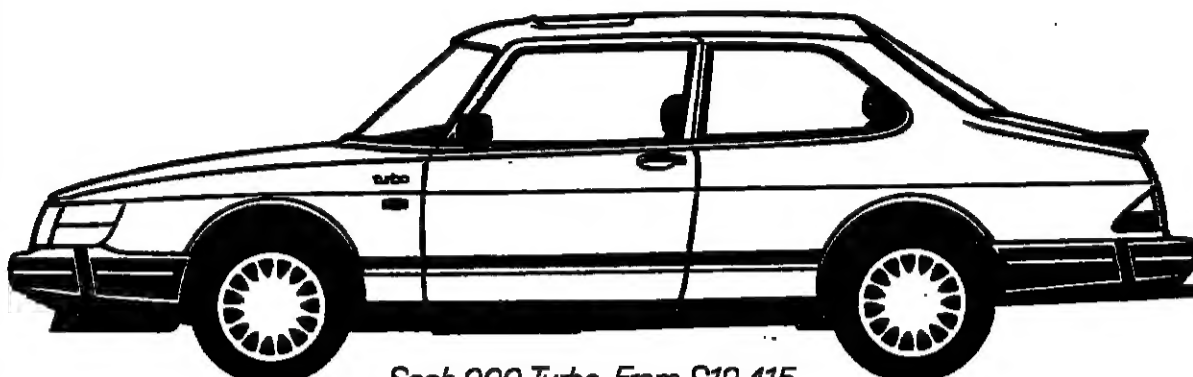
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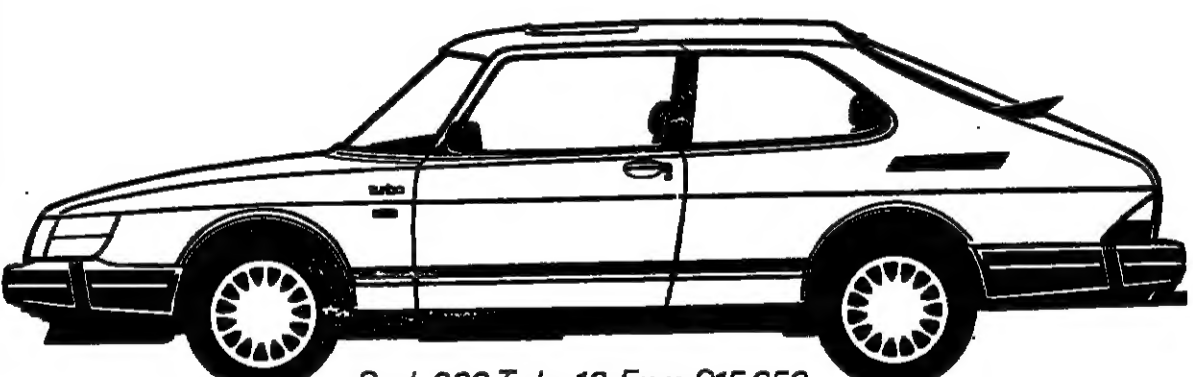
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*What Car? April 1986

'Butcher of Lyons' confronted by his accusers



The Nazi commander Klaus Barbie, accused of wartime atrocities in France, photographed before extradition from Bolivia.

Barbie trial could open in June after years of delay

From Philip Jacobson, Lyons

Exactly four years ago, Klaus Barbie was committed formally to jail in Lyons to await trial for the crimes that took place during his reign of terror as the city's Gestapo commander.

In preparation for what seemed likely to be the last of the great war crime tribunals, the Mitterrand Government announced to widespread acclaim that the entire proceedings would be televised live as "a lesson for our youth about the Nazi camp horrors".

A swift judgment on the so-called Butcher of Lyons, still bewildered by his unexpected extradition from Bolivia, seemed to be on the cards.

Today, after innumerable delays and missed deadlines, the official word is that Barbie's trial may finally be under way in June. By now, however, the keen anticipation — excitement, even — which the prospect of bringing one of Hitler's most dedicated servants to justice had first stirred among the French has all but evaporated.

Even in Lyons, few people seem to care much any more about the fate of the grey-faced, infirm old man (74 next October) who was behind the death of many of the members of the Resistance now commemorated by plaques and street names around the city.

Well-dressed youngsters in the glittering shopping centres will tell you that Barbie is ancient history, someone their parents might once have told them about.

But Mme Lise Lesèvre still cares, with a passion only explicable perhaps to fellow victims, of Barbie's taste for inflicting terrible pain on enemies of the Reich. In the spring of 1944, Mme Lesèvre, now a rather frail 86-year-old, spent 19 days under torture as he tried in vain to extract a confession about her Resistance activities.

Against all the odds, Mme Lesèvre survived that ordeal and her subsequent transportation to a Nazi death camp and last week her long search for justice finally brought her face to face with her tormentor. The dramatic confrontation took place in Barbie's regulation-size cell at the maximum-security prison of St Joseph, a grim building of dirty stone overlooking the broad River Rhône.

Four hours later Mme Lesèvre emerged calm and collected. "I might not have recognized him in the street, but here I knew him all right," she said. "It brought back some very bad memories."

As for Barbie, he had steadfastly denied any knowledge of the crimes.

As he and his wife understood from the start, France's statute of limitations protects the old Nazi from being tried a second time for war crimes of which he was convicted in 1950. Of the eight new charges of "crimes against humanity" finally levelled against him, only three now survive, all concerning atrocities against Jews in and around wartime Lyons.

In other words, nothing about his far better remembered crimes against the Resistance, among them the beating to death in Lyons of the revered hero, Jean Moulin.

"To bring Barbie to trial," Maitre Karsfeld has observed, "we could only accuse him of things that have been forgotten." In moments of weariness, he concedes that even this is taking much longer than he expected. "But in any event, Barbie is going to remain in prison. Better than throwing a press conference at the Mitz Hotel."

Meanwhile, the other day in Lyons, Barbie's main lawyer, Maitre Jacques Vergès, was asked once again why a dedicated man of the extreme left like himself, once a soldier in the Free French Army, was defending such a notorious Nazi. His reply was typically rhetorical: "If this robe I wear has any meaning, it is to say that you will not lynch him!"

Yet from the moment he took on Barbie's defence, Maitre Vergès has never hidden the true purpose of the exercise — nothing less than to show that the Gestapo's evil reign depended upon active and widespread collaboration by the French, and that the ranks of the Resistance were riddled with the sort of informers who had betrayed Jean Moulin.

From that point of departure, Maitre Vergès intends to introduce the highly sensitive question of French military excesses during the war for independence in Algeria. "Important Frenchmen will be called as witnesses, and after any interrogation they will be accused of being traitors and worse."

Powerful stuff, above all in Lyons, once the centre of occupied Vichy France and of Resistance operations (as well as housing a large Jewish population). Many French people today, especially the older generation, still shy away from the very word *collaborateur*. Others fear Maitre Vergès's threat that, with Barbie as his hammer, he intends "to break the idols of France".

Small wonder, then, that there is a widespread belief that the present Government, like its predecessor, would probably much prefer the Barbie case never to come to court. By one of those twists of fate, the Minister of Justice who originally pledged that the trial would serve to educate the nation about war criminals like Barbie was M Robert Badinter.

Next Monday, it will be exactly 43 years since his father was seized by Barbie in the victim of Nazi Jean Moulin, Resistance hero.

a raid on the premises of a Jewish organization in the centre of Lyons. Like the other 85 people arrested there, M Badinter's father disappeared forever into what Barbie liked to describe to his terrified victims as "a place that will be worse than death".

A private funeral for Liberace

From Ivar Davis, Los Angeles

Private funeral services for Liberace, the flamboyant showman who turned fashion excess on stage into a lucrative career, will take place on Monday at Forest Lawn cemetery in Hollywood, where the entertainer's mother and brother are buried.

The 67-year-old "Sultan of Schmaltz" died at his Palm Springs mansion on Wednesday afternoon from what his physician, Dr Ronald Daniels, said was congestive heart failure brought on by subacute encephalopathy, a term used to describe degenerative brain disease.

Earlier this week, when Liberace lapsed into a coma, a spokesman said he was suffering from anaemia, emphysema and heart disease.

Announcement of the cause of death again touched off stories that Liberace was suffering from Aids, as one Las Vegas newspaper had reported in late January.

Liberace's manager, Mr Seymour Heller, vehemently denied the report at the time. Shortly after Dr Daniels announced the cause of death, the rumours of Aids resurfaced. Doctors noted that the Aids virus could both damage the heart and cause encephalopathy.

A family spokesman asked that, instead of flowers, contributions should be made to the Liberace Foundation for the Creative and Performing Arts in Las Vegas.

Obituary, page 14

Thatcher advises EEC to cut costs

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday gave short shrift to an approach by M Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, to help to solve the EEC's budgetary crisis.

Mrs Thatcher advised him to meet the £3 billion estimated revenue gap by cutting costs, especially through reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP).

She made it plain that the UK was not ready to change the hard-won Fontainebleau Agreement of 1984, which increased the Commission's income and provided Britain with a generous pay-back arrangement.

Downing Street sources described the meeting as a 45-minute session in which points were firmly put. This was thought to mean that their evident distaste for each other, both at a political and a personal level, dominated the encounter.

M Delors was plainly offended at last December's EEC summit by remarks made by the Prime Minister. The summit instructed him to tour the 12 capitals in search of a budgetary agreement.

Mrs Thatcher was no less irritated by his assumption that any shortfall in EEC finances should be bridged by finding more money rather than cutting expenditure.

Her demand that he should bring costed options when touring the capitals was seen in Brussels as a slight to the Commission. Unofficial sources indicated yesterday that M Delors offered far vaguer ideas

than Mrs Thatcher would have liked. During M Delors's 12-nation tour, two main themes have been discussed. One idea was that the proportion of VAT revenues allocated by each country to Brussels should be increased.

The Fontainebleau Agreement provides for a rise from 1.4 per cent to 1.6 per cent, but only in 1988 and only if all of the Twelve agree. An earlier increase could have the effect of undermining the legal basis for Britain's refunds, which last year were worth £1.4 billion.

The other idea was to switch the basis of EEC "own resources" from the present mixture of VAT and customs duties to a system based on wealth.

Each country would contribute a figure based on its gross domestic product. While this would put Britain on a par with Italy, instead of being a substantial net contributor alongside France and Germany, it could have short-term political disadvantages in a probable election year.

Pinochet implicated in killing

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A former Chilean secret police captain directly implicated President Augusto Pinochet in a cover-up when he pleaded guilty to taking part in the 1976 car bomb murder of an exiled Chilean diplomat in Washington.

Armando Fernández Larraín, who was indicted by the United States in the assassination eight years ago of Senator Orlando Letelier, admitted being an accessory after the fact and accused two of his superiors in Dina, the Chilean secret police, of organizing the bombing.

Senator Letelier, a former Cabinet minister and ambassador to the US, had become a staunch opponent of the Pinochet regime.

Fernández told the US district court in Washington this week that it was he who identified Senator Letelier's home, office and car, and passed the information to Michael Townley, an American who admitted planting the bomb for Dina. Townley has since served a 40-month prison sentence.

Fernández, aged 35, said he told President Pinochet that his conscience had been troubling him. He quoted the President as saying: "Don't worry. Be a good soldier. Tough it out and this problem will have a happy end."

Under a plea bargaining agreement, he faces a minimum of 10 years' imprisonment. With parole he could be out in two or three years.

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Frontier withdrawal by India and Pakistan to involve 60,000 men

India and Pakistan began preparing yesterday to withdraw troops along the northern sector of their common border, after reaching an agreement to reduce tensions caused by the military build-up.

In a pact signed late on Wednesday night, after five days of talks, the two countries also pledged to meet again in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, before the end of the month to discuss further troop withdrawals.

The first stage of the de-escalation calls for the withdrawal of troops between the Ravi and Chenab rivers, which flow across the border into India's northern Kashmir state. One Indian Army officer estimated that the withdrawal would involve a total of 60,000 men. But this still leaves Indian and Pakistani forces confronting each other further south, on the border with the Indian states of Punjab and Rajasthan.

The agreement was reached in talks that began here last Saturday between Mr Abdul Sattar, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, and his Indian counterpart, Mr Alfred Gonsalves.

The accord was welcomed yesterday by the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. "We have tried with Pakistan to

keep the process of normalization open," he said. "We have had our ups and downs and differences, and it is difficult to say if the process is going well. But it is inching forward."

On Wednesday night, Mr Zain Noorani, Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said that "the first step has been taken, and we are quite confident that the



remaining sectors where de-escalation is necessary will also have the same results."

Mr Sattar said that much of the problem stemmed from misunderstandings. "There have been certain misperceptions of fact, perhaps on both sides, and there has been a misinterpretation of intentions," he said.

The pact begins by stating that both sides agreed not to

attack each other, and calls for "maximum restraint... to avoid all provocative actions along the border". It also calls for the removal of mines along the frontier, better contact between Indian and Pakistani field commanders, and "a lower state of operational readiness" of the two navies.

The troop build-up began after India launched its Brass Tacks military manoeuvres in December. The coming final phase of these manoeuvres is to be held in Rajasthan state, which is adjacent to the turbulent Pakistani province of Sind.

In response to the exercises a worried Pakistan left extra troops behind on the Rajasthan border after completing its winter manoeuvres. Then in January it moved an attack division into place opposite the Indian state of Punjab. The Indians responded by sending an estimated 120,000 extra men into Punjab. Both sides later brought forces forward in the Kashmir sector.

As Mr Gandhi explained it: "We were unhappy because they brought two attack divisions to take positions on the border. Now that they agreed to withdraw one, we don't feel threatened at all, as long as the situation remains with only one division."



Mrs Whitehead talking to the press after a tape was played in court in which she threatened to kill herself and her baby.

Surrogate mother in 'threat to kill baby'

Hackensack, New Jersey (AP) — A surrogate mother threatened to kill the child she bore rather than give the infant to the biological father, according to a tape played in court here.

"So what do we do, cut her in half?" asked Mrs Mary Beth Whitehead in a conversation recorded by the father, Mr William Stern.

As he begged Mrs Whitehead to return his daughter, she told him: "I gave her life, I can take her life away."

The cries of the infant, now 10 months old and called "Baby M" in court papers, could be heard in the background as Mrs Whitehead pleaded to be forgiven for going back on the \$10,000 (\$26,579) contract in which she agreed to be artificially inseminated with Mr Stern's sperm and give the baby to the childless couple.

The tape was introduced into evidence by the Sterns' lawyers, who have been trying to demonstrate that Mrs Whitehead and her husband, Richard, a 37-year-old refuse collector, do not have the emotional or financial stability to raise the child.

Judge Harvey Sorkow is considering the validity of the surrogate contract and whether custody of the baby should go to the Whiteheads or to Mr Stern.

Olof Palme murder Stockholm police chief removed

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Mr Hans Holmer, the Stockholm police chief, who led the bungled, fruitless investigation into the assassination of Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, was taken off the case yesterday.

A meeting of the Government agreed that his handling of the investigation was harming Sweden's reputation abroad. He will stay as part of a "reference group" on the Palme murder, however.

Even his colleagues at police headquarters on the island of Kungsholmen admit that Mr Holmer's behaviour has become steadily more eccentric in the 12 months that have followed the murder of Mr Palme, prompting comparisons with the fictional Inspector Clouseau.

Mr Holmer has ordered a series of arrests only to be forced to free his suspects because of lack of evidence. Five weeks after the murder he called in the Swedish Air Force to take aerial photographs of the central city area where Mr Palme was shot. He then constructed an elaborate scale model.

Lately he has clashed publicly with the public prosecutor's office on several occasions, angrily refusing to abandon his "main theory" that Kurdish extremists shot Mr Palme, with the result that he is now under investigation by

Sweden's Racial Equality Ombudsman for persecution of the 7,000-strong community of exiled Kurds.

There was perhaps one small consolation for Mr Holmer yesterday as Mr Palme's successor, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, also removed from the Palme case the embattled police chief's principal enemy at the public prosecutor's office, Mr Claes Zeime.

Mr Zeime, aged 64, recently collapsed with a severe asthma attack after a new row with Mr Holmer and has not since then worked on the investigation. Mr Holmer, aged 57, affectionately known to his colleagues as Clinton, a Swedish diminutive for Clint Eastwood, was said to be bitterly disappointed by the Government's decision.



Mr Holmer: would not give up his Kurdish theory

Aids scourge in the US

Doctors sound the alarm on peril from transplants

From Charles Bremner, New York

American doctors, fighting to stem the ravages of the Aids virus, are increasingly concerned at the dangers of transmission through organ transplants and artificial insemination.

Doctors have been expressing their fears publicly against the background of chilling warnings from public health officials and a sharpening national debate over the epidemic, which is seen as the biggest health threat the country has faced.

Between 1.5 million and two million Americans are be-

lieved to be carrying the virus; a third of them are thought to be in New York City.

The dangers of Aids transmission through transplants were brought home last year when two men in Georgia and Pennsylvania were found to be infected after receiving the liver and kidneys of a 30-year-old accident victim.

Other cases have been reported and the public health service has recommended testing of donors. However, doctors say they could face a dilemma between waiting for test results and transplanting an organ immediately to save a patient's life.

"What if you have a 30-year-old male with a one-year-old and a three-year-old at home. He will die in one hour if he doesn't have a heart transplant," said Dr Baird Helfrich, of Georgetown University Hospital in Washington.

"He has a choice: he can take an Aids heart or die. It's his choice. But if he chooses to live, he can see his children go from one and three to five and seven or he can die. Many people would accept the heart."

The head of the world's largest sperm bank, the Ident Laboratories in New York, sounded the alarm for insemination recipients, who number in the thousands across the country every year.

"Eighty per cent of insemination is done with fresh and untested sperm," Dr Joseph Freischlag said.

Though no woman had contracted the disease so far, the dangers were already there. "It's a long, smouldering illness. There is a long lag between being treated with infected semen and turning positive."

Ident screens donors and freezes semen for a quarantine

period and further tests, which most commercial laboratories avoided because of cost.

The country's senior health officials have delivered their grimmest warnings over the impact of the disease over the past few days. Dr Otis Bowen, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, said the epidemic would come to dwarf earlier medical disasters, such as the Black Death, smallpox or typhoid.

Dr Everett Koop, the colourful Surgeon-General who caused an uproar among conservatives when he called for anti-Aids education for eight-year-olds, said the best historical analogy for the disease was either leprosy or bubonic plague. "None of them is exactly the same because this is 100 per cent fatal."

Dr Koop has just patched up a quarrel with the Education Secretary, Mr William Bennett, over whether children should be taught abstinence or how best to protect themselves against Aids. The Surgeon-General had argued for a crash programme of education in techniques while the conservative Mr Bennett had called for instruction in abstinence.

In a carefully worded communique at the weekend, the pair concluded: "Young people should be taught that the best precaution is ab-

stinence until it is possible to establish a mutually faithful monogamous relationship."

With sex education still opposed by some states and the subject of persistent legal wrangles in others, the US has been slow to take action on spreading word of the dangers among the young. Newspapers and television have only in the past two weeks overcome

qualms and begun carrying advertisements for condoms.

In another development, the country's biggest insurance companies are preparing for battle with state governments and human rights groups over their right to insist on Aids screening for applicants of life and health policies.

Several states have barred companies from testing applicants. The most serious confrontation has taken place in Washington, where most of the companies have said they will refuse to underwrite any further policies.

Italian law reform cuts powers of magistrates

Rome (AP) — An important penal code change that reduces powers of magistrates, introduces plea bargaining and protects journalists from revealing their sources on crime stories has been enacted by the Italian legislature.

The Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday night approved by a vote of 431-24 the reform package which already has been passed by the Senate.

The reform abolishes investigating judges who enjoyed much of the powers of prosecutor, judge and a grand jury combined. A prosecutor can no longer issue arrest warrants. They can be as-

thorized only by judges now. Plea bargaining is introduced, under which prosecutors can grant immunity to defendants for providing information that may lead to the conviction of others or of themselves on lesser charges.

Courts can no longer bring in verdicts of not guilty for reason of lack of evidence, which is short of a finding of innocence. The court now can rule only guilty or not guilty.

Journalists can no longer be prosecuted for refusing to divulge sources of information which may have a bearing on criminal proceedings.



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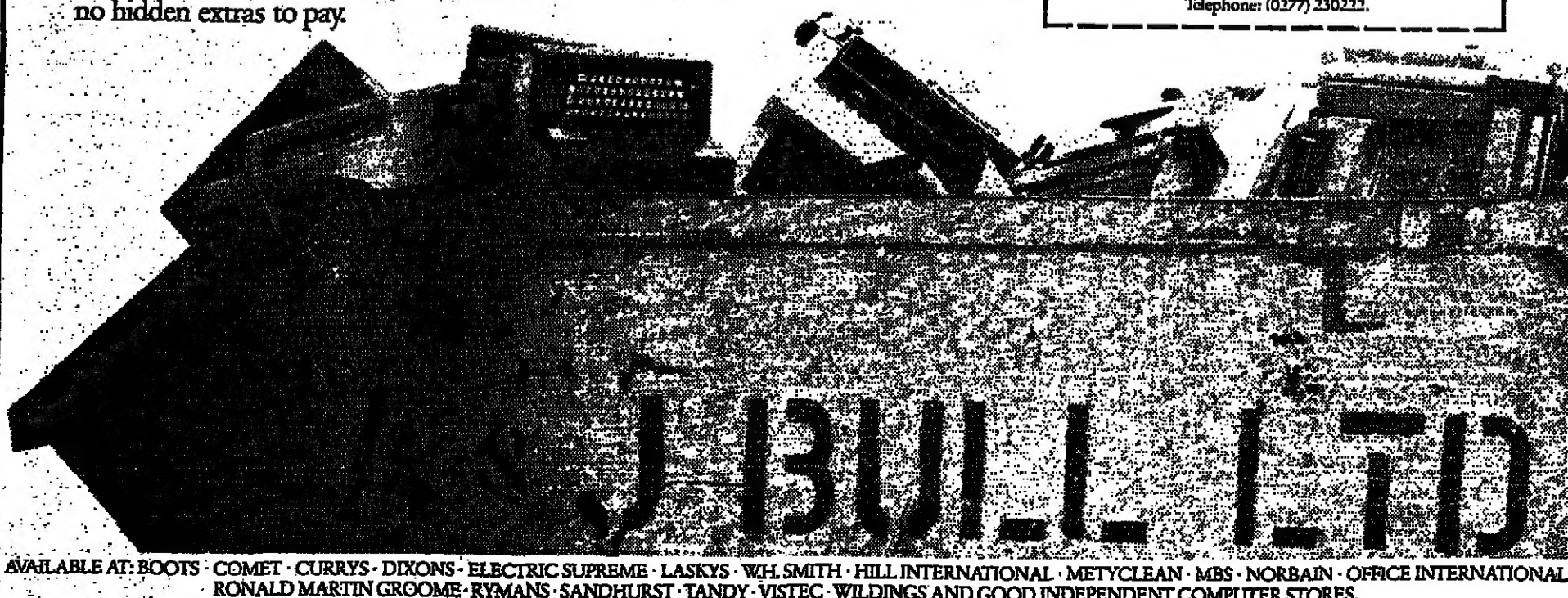
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SPECTRUM

The City on the fiddle

Any notion that fraud in the City is a "gentlemanly crime" carried out uncharacteristically by men with impeccable suits, accents and breeding does not survive much discussion with Rosalind Wright.

"You can fully believe recent stories of threats and intimidation behind take-over battles. There are now some very nasty men involved in major fraud in the City. They are bobbing about in their yachts off Gibraltar asking themselves why should they get involved in armed robbery for a haul of £20,000, when with a little planning they could steal £20 million."

As head of the City and London section of the Fraud Investigation Group (FIG), Mrs Wright, a barrister, has a uniquely informed view of the financial scandals of recent months — sooner or later the papers arrive on her desk.

The City, where a man's word used to be assurance enough for the greatest financial risks, is now seen in the public gaze as a place where men with insider knowledge act with the brazen greed of the rank outsider.

If London's midway place on the financial globe made it a key point for inter-continental trading, then it also made it a pivotal point for international fraud. Self-regulation is not seen to be working, so it is to FIG that we turn for action. Fraud is estimated to cost British firms £3 billion each year.

FIG, a team of specially skilled lawyers and accountants set up as an offshoot of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, was two years old last month. Its successes are impressive: last year FIG took 86 major fraud cases to the courts and succeeded with 74. The sums "at risk", is the money someone was trying to steal, totalled £171 million.

Dorian Williams, the just-retired controller of FIG, last week told a London conference that recorded fraud had increased by 5 per cent annually since 1980; the "dark figure" of undetected fraud would not, he said, have fallen behind. In all, the cases referred to FIG in 1985 involved a startling total of £1,500 million, which was only the rich tip of a very deep-sunk iceberg.

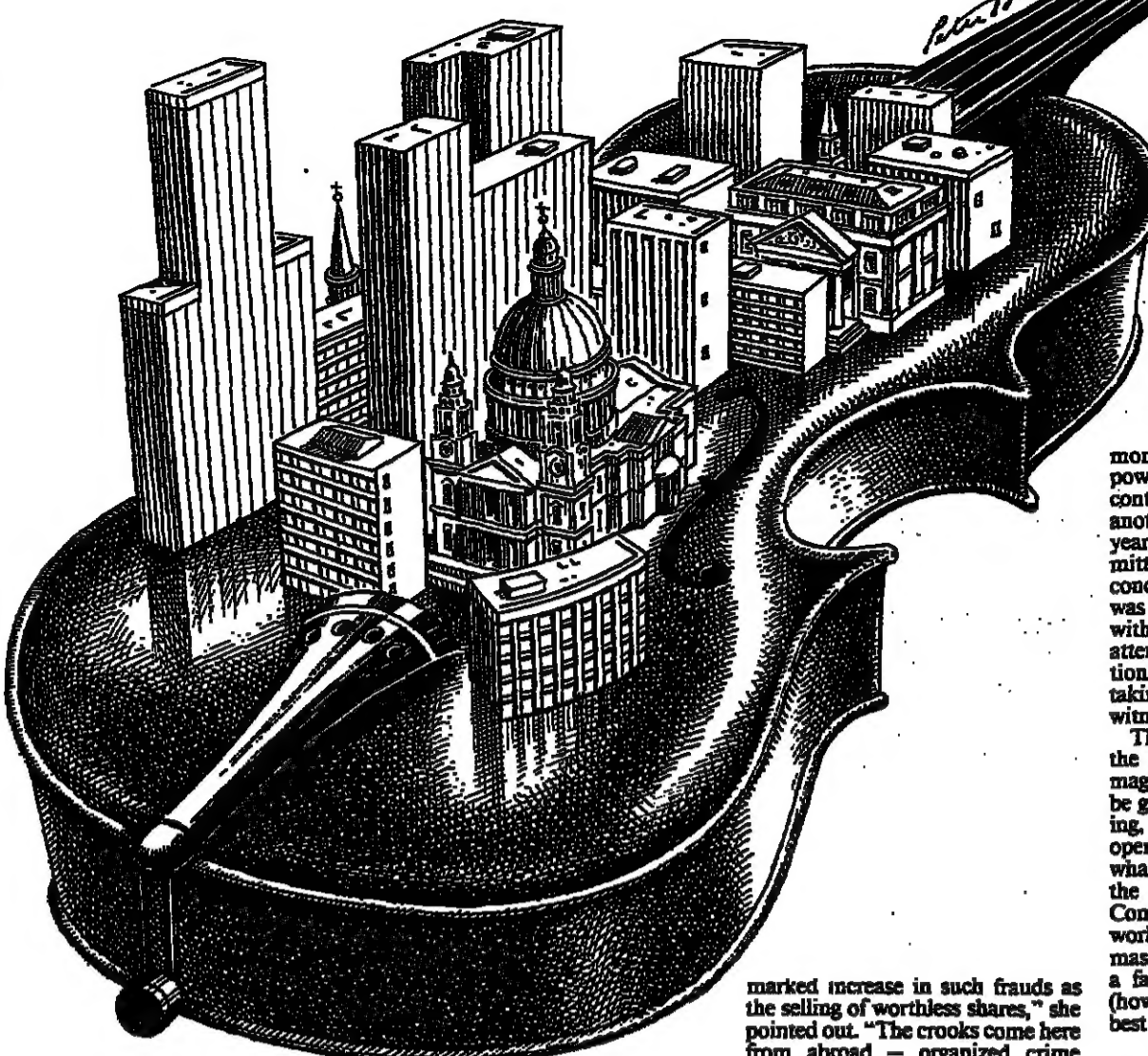
Each year perhaps 22,000 defendants are convicted of fraud, but only about 300 of the biggest, most spectacular cases are handled by FIG.

A typical FIG case will seldom involve sums less than £1 million. Invariably, there is an international element, involving a foreign bank or foreign government. FIG cases reach into institutions like Lloyds or the Stock Exchange, and FIG acts in politically sensitive allegations against local authority councillors or staff.

FIG teams are alerted, via the DPP, as soon as police officers sense that the allegation they are investigating might fit the definition of "complex or substantial" fraud. From then on FIG lawyers direct the police search for evidence.

The current Guinness inquiries did not start out as a FIG case (because the original allegations were of a breach of Company Law, which the department of Trade and Industry inspectors have a statutory duty to enforce). But the Guinness affair may end with FIG, if it is ever

Sharp practice in the City is causing increasing concern. Brian James meets the people whose job is to combat fraud and restore confidence in a financial world inhabited by a 'nasty' new breed of businessmen



alleged that offences involving deception may have been committed.

"Anxiety about fraud today is both widespread and justified," said Dorian Williams. "Nor can you count the gravest damage in accounting terms. There is also the loss of confidence in our financial bodies and the social divisiveness that attends on the suspicion that the Government is soft on the big fraudsters."

That FIG has been given much to do with too little help can be easily demonstrated. Each group leader has five lawyers to assist. One of Mrs Wright's team has on his desk the dossiers on last year's greatest insurance scandal. Ranged against him in this are a number of City firms, one of which has employed 15 full-time counsel to fend off FIG.

To make matters worse, the FIG lawyer is also dealing with 13 other cases on which he must direct police and accountants who do the investigating.

The international dimension of these huge fraud conspiracies further increases the burden. For example, FIG tried to prosecute a man who tried to get credit in the City based on two Japanese bank drafts worth £400 million. The FIG believed they were forged, but no witness was prepared to fly from Tokyo to testify to this; the case was

abandoned. Before getting too irate about uncooperative foreigners, we should bear in mind Britain's own record. We have yet to sign a mutual assistance agreement thrashed out for the Commonwealth last year; indeed, we have yet to sign a European Convention for mutual aid to fight crime put before us 28 years ago.

The efforts of FIG are not always much better supported by Britain's courts. Recently the team failed to prevent a £2 million bank swindler from escaping overseas. But two bank employees were arrested. In court FIG was lectured by the judge for bringing mere "minnows" before him. One was cleared. The other given a conditional discharge.

Until the recent scandals hit the headlines, the attitude towards fraud was oddly ambivalent. A recent poll among executives had most people listing fraud well down the league table of reprehensible crime, below burglaries, muggings and car theft. Mrs Wright said those crimes were seen as personal — affecting the man himself, his family and his home — whereas fraud was regarded as a remote crime against someone or something else.

That attitude was wrong, Mrs Wright said. "There has been a

marked increase in such frauds as the selling of worthless shares," she pointed out. "The crooks come here from abroad — organized crime figures quite often — and fill up a hired hall with school leavers each with a telephone and a list of potential victims. It is incredible how easily people part with their money in exchange for worthless shares, because of what they read in a glossy brochure."

Nor has FIG morale been improved by the steady seepage of staff. A year ago Parliament, told of acute resource problems, heard a promise for a 60 per cent increase in legal and accounting experts. The promise was not kept in fact two key junior lawyers, employed on a scale that begins at around £14,000 per annum, accepted offers of £20,000 and £22,000, plus car, to join City firms expanding after the Big Bang.

Could FIG, if better supported, have done more? "Could and should," said Dorian Williams, freed now from the constraint of the service. "We could have cut the time in bringing cases to trial, say 12 months. We could have prosecuted, say, 150 major fraud operators a year. If a government agency had been seen to be geared to bringing this number of heavy cases this swiftly to court, I believe the effect could have been to dramatically change the atmosphere of the City: there would have been fewer willing to take the risks."

The irony now is that soon the

money and the staff and greater powers are to be given to the containment of fraud — but to another body. During FIG's first year of operation the Roskill Committee Inquiry into complex fraud concluded that what was needed was a Serious Fraud Office, armed with the powers to demand the attendance of witnesses, the production of documents, and even the taking of evidential statements from witnesses abroad by video links.

The SFO will also be able to avoid the time-wasting "rehearsal" of a magistrates' court hearing, and will be given the machinery for preparing, with enforced defence co-operation, a case that conforms to what Dorian Williams describes as the test of three "Cs" — that is, Comprehension (how did the fraud work?), Concentration (what in the mass of paper is really necessary for a fair trial?) and Communication (how can the selected material be best explained for the jury?)

Why Whitehall, when drawing up the Criminal Justice Bill after Roskill, did not simply give these long-needed powers to FIG, instead of creating a new body with twice the FIG £1 million budget and half again as many staff, is a mystery solvable only by the mandarins. But this no longer matters.

What is important is that if FIG is to lose to SFO its 100 "best" cases (ie those with the greatest sums said to have been stolen) it ought also to lose its best staff. Two years hunting the tricksters who invent fantasy banks, sell imaginary cargoes, make real ships vanish and subvert entire foreign governments has given the FIG teams a rare taste for the game. There is a compelling argument that a career path from the Crown Prosecution Service up through FIG to SFO could provide a professional challenge for keen lawyers to match that of the City itself.

In this, the age of the share-owning common man, there is clearly going to be an uncommon amount of work for watchdogs. As Mrs Wright said, as she marked "No action" on a blue-bound file naming a man who had stolen £500,000 in London but was now safely back in Panama: "Sad. I hate to see him get away. But there will be another just like him along very, very shortly."

A manoeuvre even tougher than Entebbe

Can the mastermind of the world's best known raid bring Israel's armed forces up to date?

Israeli raid frees 100 hostages at Amin airport

If any one man changed world attitudes to hostage-taking, it is Major General Dan Shomron, who has controversially just been chosen to take over in April as Israel's Chief of Staff. Only 49 years old now, he grabbed the world headlines in June, 1976, when as the commander of Israel's paratroops and infantrymen he drew up the spectacularly successful plan for the raid on Entebbe which saved so many of the hijacked passengers. Since Entebbe, hostages tend to be kept in secret.

The meticulous planning of the raid and the ice-cold calm he kept during those nail-biting hours were two of the main qualities which have now put General Shomron in command of one of the world's most feared fighting machines, the Israeli Defence Force (IDF). But his main qualification for the job is that he realizes that the fighting machine urgently needs modernization. He is prepared to do this with cold detachment. "He can analyse problems without sentimental attachment to obsolete methods," a senior officer explained.

"He has the concept of the future battlefield." His philosophy is that, as Israel cannot hope to match the Arab confrontation states quantitatively, it must exploit its qualitative edge. He is of the school which believes money is better spent on "state of the art" weapons and smaller numbers of highly trained troops, than on paying a disproportionately large standing army and funding expensive reserve training. But in the short-term, the new weapons could prove more expensive and the strategy runs counter to traditional thinking in the IDF.

Forward planning of this kind was needed in the Jordan Valley kibbutz where he was born and brought up. It was a philosophy of serious hard work coupled with the best use of limited resources. He is the essential "sabre", a native Israeli, born at Ashdot Ya'acov just south of the Sea of Galilee. He did his national service as a paratrooper and then went back to driving tractors on the kibbutz. But he missed the

paratroops. When Air Force Flight 139 was hijacked at Entebbe, the politicians argued while he drew up the rescue plan. Its success meant that the young brigadier made a very powerful friend in Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister and now Defence Minister responsible for selecting any new chief of staff. That friendship was important: the outgoing chief of staff, Lt Gen Moshe Levy, opposed his appointment to his new job, as did other senior army officers.

It was Rabin who promoted him to Deputy Chief of Staff in 1985, with overall control of defence spending. Now that he has the top job, probably for at least four years, he faces his hardest battle of all in persuading the government to spend now in order to save later.

Ian Murray



General Shomron: pay now, later, is his strategy

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Murrow: enlightening millions of Americans during Britain's darkest days

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Yes, it's uphill all the way A hikers' guide to the Pyrenees

The hard cell in soft covers Paperback review: our prison system

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Green light for a wooden O

An American's dream of rebuilding the Globe Theatre is to become reality after an 18-year battle

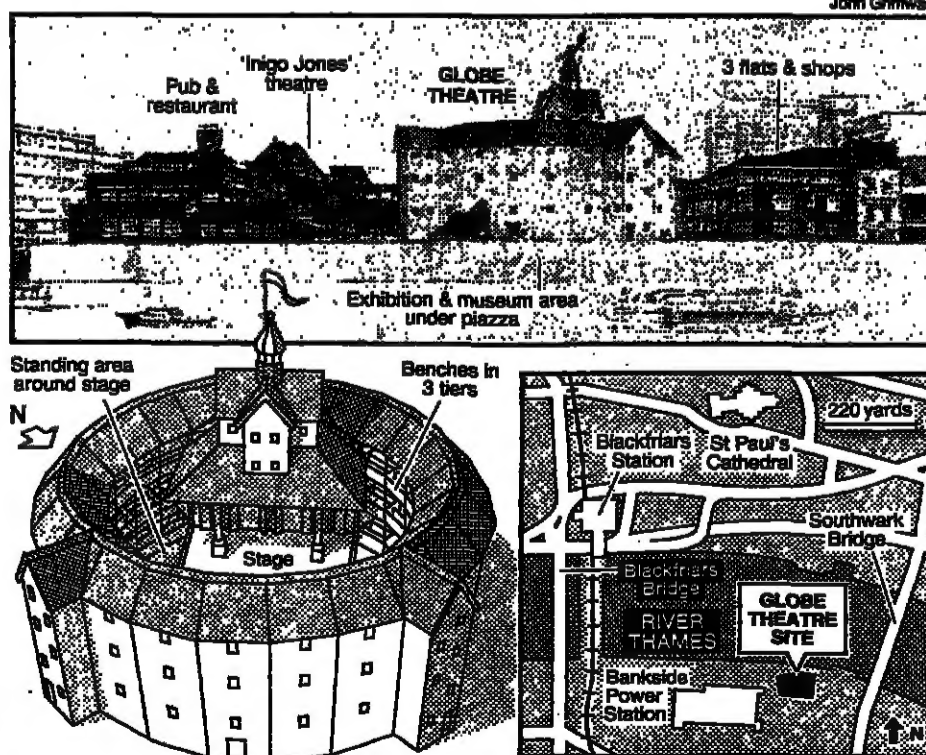
The long and bizarre confrontation between an American actor and a left-wing British council finally came to an end this week. The actor won, but the hard left saved its face.

That means the reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the south bank of the Thames near Southwark Bridge is now virtually certain to go ahead. The real site of the original Globe is generally agreed to be 200 yards to the south-east of the proposed building. But even Sam Wanamaker could not uproot Southwark Bridge Road and knock down the Grade I listed bit of the Courage's Brewery in the name of his dream.

That dream began 18 years ago when the British-domestic actor first looked with dismay at the urban wasteland that covered the area, where bears had been baited and some of the greatest works of the human mind had been created. Wanamaker was a ludicrously optimistic 49-year-old at the time. Every obstacle that British planning law and property development could conceive was erected in his path, but by the 1980s Wanamaker looked home and dry.

Then Southwark Council shifted violently from cuddly socialism to hard leftism. The suave arguments about amenities and tourist trade suddenly became irrelevant in the face of the vocabulary of militancy, which is interested in the community services and housing.

Last year Wanamaker and his property developers went



Out of the ashes: the Globe's site, and how it will appear from the north bank of the Thames

to court to establish that Southwark had reneged on an earlier undertaking and they won. They then found their old planning application had lapsed. They re-applied. This time two identical applications were submitted so that one could go to appeal at the Department of the Environment, while the other was used to try once again to negotiate with the Southwark planners.

After 18 years Wanamaker had become pretty smart. On Monday this week, Southwark capitulated. True, some of the council's (mainly traffic) objections were met: the number of flats in the development had been reduced from 17 to 3, five shops had been added and the height of the building had been raised

one and a half metres to improve its visibility from the far side of the river. Southwark had won at least an ounce of flesh; but Wanamaker's show was on the road at last.

Well almost. From March 1 archaeologists will be on the site for four months. After that there will be an International Shakespeare Week, with a ground-breaking ceremony on July 16. The first phase, which will include a museum, will be ready by 1990, but it will be 1992 before the dream is fully realized. It will include another small theatre, the Inigo Jones.

About 20 per cent of the £13 to £15 million required has been committed to the project, but the main thrust of

the fund-raising will begin with the July 16 ceremony.

The legendarily good-natured Wanamaker admits to several "brief" moments of intense bitterness over the last 18 years and a degree of disappointment with the seemingly insubstantial resistance in England to new and faintly romantic projects such as this. But he is a philosophical type.

"This has ended up taking a bigger portion of my life than I ever intended. It has cut into the rest of my career. Whenever I have been resting I have had to work on the Globe. As for 'Why?' — well that's what everyone always asks me. I dunno."

Bryan Appleyard

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Following the death of Mr David Fyle Cable of Forfar, Scotland, who died in England after his return from Iran, and acting in trust for and on behalf of Mrs Sylvia Cable, his widow, who has now released a portion of his superb collection to

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A NOTE ON THE LATE DAVID FYLE CABLE. He was born in Forfar, Scotland, on the 24th of April, 1934. At a very early age through his father, who had often worked in Iran and later as a student, he developed what was at that time an unusual interest in Persian rugs which continued to grow throughout his life.

In 1958 he went to London, at that time still the centre of the world for Persian carpets, to seek his fortune and his niche in the trade of Persian carpets.

The bonded warehouses at the Port of London Authority, Cutler Street, London EC2 (formerly the East India Dock Warehouse) were the centre of the oriental carpet trade.

It was in this closed world that David Fyle Cable started his career and in which he was determined to succeed. He commenced his collection picking rare items in the hundreds of thousands of rugs that transited through the bonded warehouses. In his passionate love of rugs and his determination to succeed, even though an outsider in this field, he made outstanding progress.

In 1965 he became a director of the Persian Carpet Trading Company Ltd, of 120 Bishopsgate, London EC2, at that time one of the largest of the 127 companies in the Port of London Authority Warehouses.

In 1968 having mastered Persia, and accompanied by his wife, he fulfilled his lifelong ambition to live and work in Iran. With foreign capital he organized the formation of a large European trading corporation, International Carpet Trading Company Limited of Teheran. It was during this time that his work took him deep into the remote parts of Iran where his passion for seeking out the beautiful, unique rug could be satisfied.

Whilst in Iran he commenced his book "A Scotsman and Persian Rugs", which he wrote in the manner of A. Cecil Edwards' classic work "The Persian Carpet", and which has remained unfinished.

Always of delicate health and a very heavy smoker, he was found to have cancer of the stomach and returned to England where he died.

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FRIDAY PAGE

First Lady sings the blues



Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter left the White House six years ago. Christopher Thomas talked to the former First Lady about her books, bitterness and the influence she still exerts

Six years ago, Rosalynn Carter went home to Plains, Georgia, to the smothering embrace of a dreary little town in the Georgia countryside. Back to her very ordinary house, to planting flowers, to the old church, to the town she had been so glad to leave. She was bitter. "I would not watch the television news for the first few months. I didn't want to see somebody else in the White House."

Now she watches the news avidly, devours the newspapers, and is angry all over again. President Reagan has slashed the mental health programmes she so cherished. She disagrees with almost all his policies, domestic and foreign. She is sure that Jimmy would have done better, that he should have had another four years in the White House. "The people made a mistake. I think they will see that."

She is highly political, some say more so than her husband. She thought about running for the Senate after leaving the White House. "I was devastated when Jimmy lost. I enjoyed all of it, even the bad press. I never felt that I sacrificed anything or that it was an imposition being a political wife. I would like Jimmy to run for president again, but he won't do it."

Mrs Carter, a desperately shy country girl who mumbled and stumbled through the early times as a political wife, became a confident and immensely respected First Lady. She earned the nickname "the steel magnolia" (the magnolia being Georgia's state flower) because of her toughness and her contempt for the glitter and superficiality of the grinning socialites she so carefully avoided. She proved that there was more than a cute Southern belle behind that engaging smile. From that hard-earned position of respect, from all that prestige and influence, she went home to the threat of a life of severe boredom and parochial obscurity in Plains (population 700), the town of her birth.

Initially it was a colossal blow, a trauma, a devastation to return to the beginning. All that visibly followed the Carters to Plains as proof of glories past were the Secret Service men, who will watch over them like expensive national or-

naments for the rest of their lives. But Mrs Carter had changed.

"After an experience like that, I don't think anybody could just go home and be content to do nothing. I really thought we would be bored to death after what was really 10 years away - after the Governor's Mansion, the White House, the campaigns and all of that. The bitterness had not totally left me."

It is a cold afternoon in Atlanta, the state capital, as Mrs Carter talks. She is in her large, stately office in the Carter Presidential Centre, which opened late last year, comprising the Carter library and a host of facilities for learning and research. She seems a little shy. She has just been to hospital to see a sick relative. Three or four days a month she comes to the Carter Centre, sometimes staying overnight in the private apartment there, but preferring to make the three-hour drive home in a secret service car the same day. "Otherwise it's the noon the next day before you get home and the day is over."

When she returned to Plains from the White House she threw herself into her book, *First Lady From Plains*. Jimmy, too, was under deadline for his memoir, *Keeping*

Faith. They felt overwhelmed with work. "We also had to raise \$25 million to build the presidential library. We did not have time to think about losing the election, really. We came home and got busy."

The Carters have just finishing writing a book together, to be published in May, dealing with matters like how to face the crises of life and how to live longer. They discovered that by not smoking, drinking moderately and wearing seat belts, you can prolong your life by 11 years. But what do you do with the extra time? That's in the book, too.



Campaigning: Rosalynn Carter today and (above, left) with Jimmy in 1960

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"It was difficult to write jointly,"

Mrs Carter said, smiling. "Jimmy and I write so differently. He sits down and writes a chapter in a day or two. I have told him that he writes and I compose. It takes me three weeks to do that much. I just have to study over things. I can do anything I want with his work because it's just a draft but I won't let him touch mine."

"I didn't work very well. We really fought over it. We remembered things in our life so differently. I would write something and Jimmy would say: 'This didn't happen this way' and I would say it did. It was hard. We would never do it again. At one time we thought that if we got a divorce the last chapter

would be a sensation and the book would be a best seller."

Mrs Carter quickly learned after she left the White House that ex-First Ladies, like ex-presidents, still have clout. "You still have the resources, you can call on anybody in our country and in other countries. You still have influence. For me, finding a way to use that influence has been one of my main interests. You feel like you need to use it. You can't waste it."

She pulls on that influence in her work with the mentally handicapped, which remains a deep love. She believes that working with handicapped people is a result of her faith in God. "I think that when you believe in God, it comes naturally to want to do things that are helpful to others. The Bible says we should try to follow Jesus' example. I am not a very good follower but I try."

She is currently involved in organizing a conference at the Carter Presidential Centre in February next year on women and the constitution. Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and Betty Ford will be co-convenors. She believes that no First Lady will ever be content "just to stay at home and be a housewife because when you get to the White House you see the enormous influence you have, the resources you have. Any First Lady in the future will want to take advantage of that. The role of the First Lady has changed, as the role of women has changed."

Mrs Carter is proud that her daughter, Amy, aged 19, has become an activist, and surprised too. "I didn't think she was the type. As long as she does her schoolwork, it's OK. Without the White House experience I don't think she would be as interested in the issues of the day as she is now." Amy, who attends Brown University in Rhode Island, is due to go to trial in April on charges of disorderly conduct at the University of Massachusetts, where she was protesting against CIA recruitment last November.

The Carters travel extensively. They were in the Middle East for a month last spring and a trip to China is planned. Political dignitaries frequently visit them in Georgia. On the day we talked she was meeting Michael Manley, former Prime Minister of Jamaica, as well as a former president of Venezuela. Returning to Plains, clearly, has not meant a total eclipse.

OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND INTO THE WORLD OF GOOD CAUSES



Jackie Kennedy Career woman



Lady Johnson Flower passion



Pat Nixon Low profile



Betty Ford Started clinic

became world famous. Her personal troubles and her candour in admitting them have inspired many people. She has said that life after the White House is "to an extent, dull."

Lady Bird Johnson's passion at the White House was wild flowers. It still is. She started the National Wildflower Research Centre on her 70th birthday in 1982. Its aim is to encourage the use of native plants, trees, shrubs and wildflowers. She

says: "Can you imagine Georgia without dogwood, Mississippi without magnolia, or Texas without the bluebonnet? She entertains a lot at the LBJ Ranch to thank people for their involvement in her projects. "I wake each morning, glad for each day."

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis is an editor in book publishing. She has a 15-room apartment on Fifth Avenue, where she plays host to a glittering

social set - politicians, authors, Hollywood luminaries and businessmen. She remains deeply interested in a broad range of culture. She has moved from a bejewelled social butterfly to a paint-splattered career woman. She took a \$200-a-week job at Viking Press while discussions were going on about her \$26 million buyout from claims against the estate of the Greek shipping magnate, Aristotle Onassis. She has since moved to Doubleday. She takes the credit for snaring Michael Jackson to write his autobiography for a \$400,000 advance.

Pat Nixon has been plagued by ill health since leaving the White House. She kept a low profile while first lady and today is hardly ever seen publicly. She lives with her husband at their mansion in New Jersey. She is one of the few First Ladies in modern history not to have adopted an "issue" during her tenure.

MEDICAL BRIEFING
Fighting fund

Dr Catherine Griffiths, in common with most doctors, kept a sharp lookout for any change in colour, shape or texture of her moles. She was particularly careful as, although not a sun worshipper, she did have a fair skin. Three and a half years ago, when she was 50, she noticed that a longstanding mole behind her knee developed a small protuberance, barely larger than a match head, which had recently bled. Fortunately she was friendly with one of the surgeons at the Royal Marsden and within 48 hours the mole had been removed and sent for microscopic examination.

Dr Griffiths had not misread the clinical signs: it was a malignant melanoma. Despite early treatment the cancer had already spread and six months later she needed a block dissection of the lymphatic glands of the groin, which had become infiltrated with malignant tissue. The second operation failed to stop the spread of disease so that in a further six months there were deposits in her liver, spleen and chest. At this stage Dr Griffiths started

what has now been 28 months of chemotherapy at the Westminster Hospital, where the Oncology Department treat 10 per cent of all the advanced cases of malignant melanoma in this country.

She is now free of apparent disease, but has to contend with the side effects of her latest treatment, carboplatin (a platinum compound) which makes her feel sick; and recombinant alpha interferon which causes breathlessness, headaches and generalized muscle pains. However she has continued to work and on only three afternoons has failed to attend her own clinic.

Anxious to repay the hospital staff for some of their devotion, Dr Griffiths is starting a fund to support the unit in founding a research laboratory, which they hope in time will not only help to defeat malignant melanoma, which, as a consequence of cheaper holidays in the sun, is becoming depressingly common, but will also increase knowledge of other rapidly spreading tumours such as those of the ovary, kidney and lung.

Unhealthy health foods



Many people mistakenly believe that the more "health" foods they consume the healthier they will be. Frequently the opposite is true: one young civil servant, whose life was made a misery by heartburn, had abandoned his traditional breakfast, the meat and two veg at lunch, and a bachelor's dinner for vast quantities of wholemeal bread at each meal, together with wheat-enriched soup and the occasional salad. Even Tagamet and Zantac, the anti-ulcer drugs so valued by the Stock Exchange, and the standard antacids, failed to heal the ravages this diet had inflicted on his stomach and duodenum.

Patients do not have to be extreme in their diets to suffer; even people who are lacto-ovo vegetarians fail to meet normal dietary goals. Modern Medicine reports that recent research from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, has shown that they are deficient in iron, vitamin B12 and zinc, which is needed to fight infection. As the vegetarians the authors studied ate eggs and drank milk their blood fat levels were no lower than those of a non-vegetarian, and the serum triglyceride, one of the blood fats, was appreciably higher.

Pill warning



When oral contraception first became widely accepted there was considerable anxiety that the Pill would lose its effectiveness if taken at the same time as antibiotics but experience and clinical trials showed that the risks were more theoretical than practical.

However, a recent edition of the *Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin* recommends that, as

the new low dose combined pills have become the standard prescription, greater care should be taken when antibiotics are prescribed and it would seem prudent to take additional precautions during antibiotic therapy, particularly if griseofulvin or rifampicin are being used.

Contraceptive failure has also been reported in patients taking tetracycline, ampicillin, co-trimoxazole (Septrin) and cephalosporins. Studies with flagyl and erythromycin showed no interaction with contraceptives.

Can you be sure of shells?

The attacks of gastroenteritis occasionally caused by oysters or clams are less likely to be due to bacteria than to a little known virus, according to the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The Norwalk Virus gives rise to a two-day illness of diarrhoea, abdominal pain and vomiting.

A team of doctors from the New York Department of Health interviewed 2,319 people who had eaten infected clams or oysters: 44 per cent became ill. Their evidence showed that the clams were twice as likely to be affected if their shellfish was raw rather than steamed, but that even steaming was often inadequate to destroy the virus.

As well as being affected by the virus, patients who enjoy raw or steamed shellfish may also be at risk from hepatitis A and bacterial gastroenteritis.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

From Eileen Weatherhead, hospital teacher, Cranbrook, Kent

The continuing debate about the provision of teaching in hospitals, now subject of a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate and referred to by Denise Winn ("The Lame Side of Teaching", Jan 21), often founders on the question of whether or not provision should be made on the basis of length of stay.

There are two points to be considered. First, most spells in hospital do not represent the total absence from school, being entangled by a few days at either end. Second, the trauma of a stay in hospital and consequent detachment from school ambience is much greater, from the child's point of view, than the measurable few days. Anyone, child or adult, who has spent time in hospital knows that two days can seem like two weeks.

TALKBACK

Children are not animals and often feel they have missed more than, in fact, they have. A continuing school presence can do much to counteract this.

From Linda Dawkes, Ovington, Alresford, Hampshire

Did it not occur to Madame Claude ("Sex is a taxing thing", January 28) that a real woman (ie not one of her "graduates") who is "sophisticated, funny and intelligent" and apparently much more besides, would have less difficulty than most in finding herself a partner who, far from not wishing to be bothered with her problems, would actually, with fashion, expect and love that "pilgrimage" in bed? Why should any woman settle for less?

One of the great British failings, we are told, is that we don't respect our manufacturing industry. 1986 was Industry Year, full of campaigns and words of praise for the dynamic future of British manufacturing, but a recent survey showed that 83 per cent of us didn't even know it was happening. For a nation that is supposed to be pitching for a new industrial revolution, we seem to be remarkably lacking in grass-roots enthusiasm.

Or so it seems, unless you happen to share a house with anyone under five. The toddlers, I can report, think factories are absolutely wonderful. They walk around all day, punching imaginary clocks and chanting: *Packing and stacking, no we don't believe in stacking, We're Neil and Flo and we're always on the go.*

Their entire lives have been taken over by Bertha the Big Machine. Bertha is a big green machine with multicoloured cogwheels, a computer panel and a friendly smile, who lives in a factory called Spottiswood and Co and is tended by dumpy little puppets. She is a BBC children's television programme (back on the air next month), she is a stack of books, she is a cassette of remorseless, repetitive songs.

A year ago, if you were two or three years old, you were encouraged to model yourself on a rural postman in the Yorkshire dales - good old Postman Pat bumbling around wasting Post Office time by pulling sheep out of fences. Now my small son wears a tea cosy on his head and claims to be a Sikh fork-lift driver called Panjit from Stores, and my two-year-old daughter alternates between the packing and stacking department and the demanding role of Mrs Tupp the tea-lady. They are as happy as Japanese workers, singing the company song: *"Getting to work on Monday never seems too hard."*

Fun at the TV factory

BBC's Bertha is busy gearing up tomorrow's workers for life on the shop floor



Too break: how children see Bertha's factory

When you know you've got yer workmates waiting when you've punched yer card! When your baby lugs out "Just off to the design office mummy" and your four-year-old frowns into his clipboard (he begged for one) and mutters "I've an order here from Spengler's that needs seeing to", things are getting serious. We begin to suspect some fiendish intelligence up at the BBC is at work, forcing us willy-nilly to nurture the industrial generation of the next century.

"I'm the foreman" said my son loudly, the other day. "Back to work, chrybody." And his little sister, once so

rebellious, put down her doll's cup, hitched up her nappy, and crouched over the toy cogwheels with ferocious concentration. She was singing something, so I leaned towards her and caught a few lines of the apprentice's song in which the boy sits "dawning of de day his name will be - on de manager's door!"

There is a thoroughly CBI atmosphere of purposefulness in the plots. Machine minders eat their sandwiches next to the conveyor belt, while earnestly discussing problems of design and production.

Life at Spottiswood and Co is not quite as gritty as reality, of course. When the song says that the manager "has in store a surprise for the shopfloor", it does not mean massive redundancies and thousands of lacer puppets on the scrap-heap; he is merely having a birthday party for Bertha the Big Machine.

These days, when we wake, the little workers have taken to chanting the Manager's Song by heart: *Mr Willmake will make sure orders coming through the door Will be treated as they should up at Spot-tis-wood Getting orders out on time with his smooth production line.*

It is like having Sir Terence Beckett singing down the baby alarm at you. Their voices rise to a crescendo, extolling the proud history of their company and praising the management as good workers must. "His family pictures on the wall looking down on him Remind us of the past they all went out there to win Making Spottiswood the place where orders kept on rolling in it's just the same today, it's just the same today. And good old Mr Willmake making sure it stays that way!"

I look rather wistfully, now, at old Postman Pat under the sofa. They'll be privatizing him next. Libby Purves

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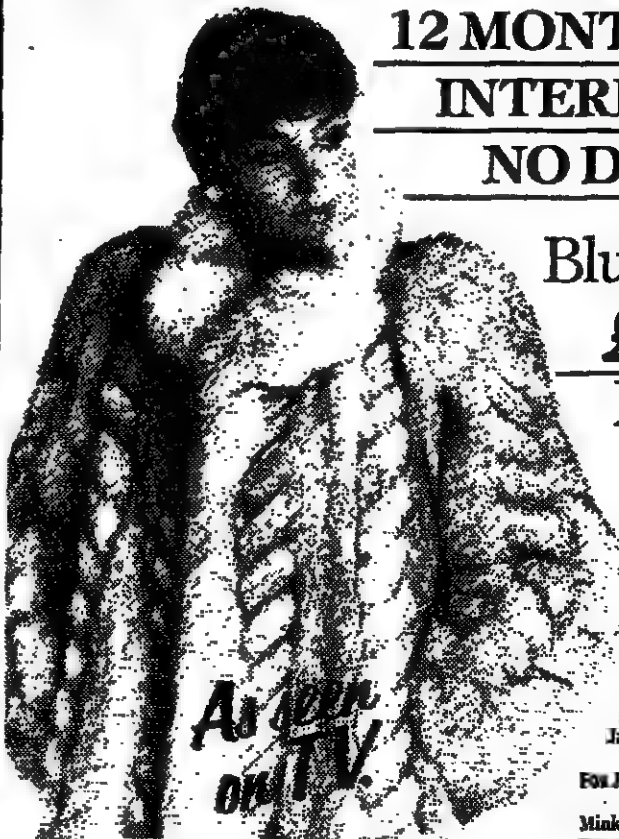
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THE TIMES DIARY

Quote, unquote

Edward Heath, clearly taking student life increasingly seriously as he bids for the Oxford chancellorship, is beginning to regret turning up at a reception held by the National Association of Conservative Graduates on Wednesday night. Yesterday morning I was on the phone for hours as fellow guests, all one-time members of the now disbanded Federation of Conservative Students, regaled me with what purported to be snippets of Heath's small-talk on the subject of one of his rivals for chancellor, Lord Blake. With remarkable unanimity, they claimed that Heath said he regretted giving Blake a peerage, felt his biography of Disraeli lacked sympathy with the subject, and thought it inappropriate for a working academic to become chancellor. Heath tells me that the quotes are "all absolute nonsense" admitting only to remarking that Blake's history of the Conservative Party suffered from lack of access to recent papers. He believes that a faction is out to discredit him. The theory has its merits: In its dying years the FCS tried frantically to remove Heath as patron.

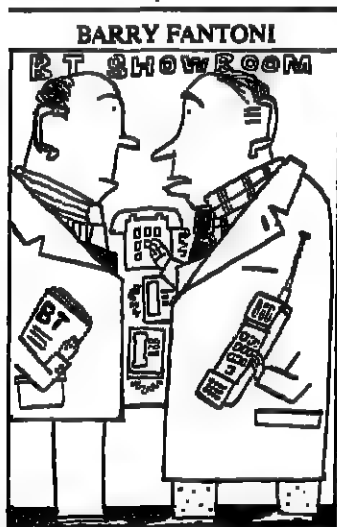
Meanwhile, Peter Bradshaw is smarting from Heath's cheery prediction at the bash that he would lose his seat at the election. "Just pulling his leg," says Heath.

Sound of battle

A new weapon in the world of industrial relations has swung into action outside the headquarters of the British Tyre and Rubber Company in Vincent Square, London. Wearing of the trade from picketing workers sacked from a subsidiary company, specialists in artificial limb-making, BTR management has rigged a microphone to a loud-speaker. A split-second time delay ensures that speeches shouted through the pickets' megaphones are turned to gibberish. The resulting cacophony should make a noise bigger even than BTR's abortive Pilkington takeover bid.

Big catch

Life in jail obviously isn't what is used to be. A reader tells me she was in an Islington fish shop yesterday when a Rolls-Royce pulled up outside. The driver strode in, bought £11 worth of smoked salmon and prawns, and drove off. "You know where those are going, don't you?" said the fishmonger. "Pentonville Prison." Since the governor's office is adamant that the feast was not for staff consumption, I understand the most likely recipient was a remand prisoner. As my titled informant remarked: "For myself, I think twice about buying a Dover sole."



BARRY FANTONI
The phone's cordless, and the pay awards have no strings.

Cash crisis

Panic has set in among the capital's voluntary organizations. The London Boroughs Grants Committee, set up to dole out ratepayers' cash after the abolition of the GLC, has still to agree its budget for the next financial year. Neither the Labour nor Conservative-controlled councils represented have budgeted an inch over their demands. Attempts by the committee's Liberal chairman, David Williams, to arrange a compromise in time for next week's meeting have so far failed. Without a commitment for continued funding, some organizations have already issued staff with redundancy notices. The mental health charity Mencap, one of scores of beneficiaries, fears that two educational projects could face the axe unless an agreement is reached soon.

Red sales

Miss Marple has succeeded in taking Moscow by storm. Agatha Christie's genteel counter to Hercule Poirot recently featured in a serialization of *A Murder Is Announced* in one of Moscow's literary magazines. Now the BBC has sold the Russian its film versions of the stories. Moscow's *What's On* guide tells finger-tappers: "Nothing escapes her steely gaze."

Marcos runs

The deposed Philippine leader, Ferdinand Marcos, has recorded a 25-minute videotape, apparently for distribution in his homeland, showing him jogging, lifting small weights, doing sit-ups and shadow-boxing. The international showbiz weekly *Varley* comments that he should take advantage of some obvious tie-ins. Imelda Marcos Aerobic Shoes, perhaps?

PHS

Who shall defend our rights?

Simon Lee doubts that judges should take on the task proposed by the Gardner bill

The House of Commons should today reject Sir Edward Gardner's bill which seeks to adopt the European Convention on Human Rights as a British bill of rights — unless its supporters are prepared to make one vital compromise. They must decide who will interpret and apply the general language of that document if it is to be incorporated into our domestic law.

What exactly does it mean, for example, to say that we have a right to respect for our private lives (Article 8 of the European Convention)? The recent Rees case shows that the right to privacy is problematic. The European Commission of Human Rights unanimously felt that a transsexual's right to privacy was breached by the refusal of the Registrar-General to amend the transsexual's birth certificate. But then the European Court of Human Rights reversed this.

Bills of rights do not answer all the questions. Those who interpret the documents have great discretion and therefore great power. It is vital to decide who is to make the decisive British contribution. Is it Parliament or the courts?

Sir Edward Gardner will argue that we already defer to the European Court, so why not allow British judges the same power to

review our law in the light of the European convention. Instead of suffering the allegedly humiliating spectacle of washing our dirty linen in public at Strasbourg?

But the analogy with European judges is not really apt. There is a big difference between 21 European judges, one from each country, interpreting a vague document, and one, three or five British judges having the same power. This is not a criticism of our own judges. It is, rather, an acknowledgement of two facts.

First, the full European Court brings a breadth of experience and a variety of traditions which cannot be matched by a small group of British judges.

Secondly, no single, transient government can turn a majority of the European Court. But any one government can and usually does influence the make-up of our own judiciary. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, and Mrs Thatcher have nominated all the senior judges but one since 1979. They have done so without seeking to shift the courts to the right. But could they, or any government, be so self-effacing if judges were yet more powerful? Would we not

expect that the more powerful the courts become, the more pressure there would be to appoint sympathetic judges?

The trouble with the Gardner bill is that it sets us on an uncertain constitutional path. It might lead to great gains in our civil liberties, but it might not. It will certainly alter the nature of appointments to the judiciary.

I am far from convinced that British court procedure is the best environment for a thorough analysis of such problematic political questions as the bill would give them. An adversarial dispute between two parties, largely argued on the basis of precedent, would not be the ideal forum in which to decide, for instance, whether a Labour government's proposals against private education or in favour of residentialisation offend the European Convention.

There is a better solution. Judges are not the only possible interpreters of a bill of rights. If we have enough imagination to challenge the existing constitutional order, why stop at introducing broad guarantees of rights?

We should create a constitutional council which could make

recommendations to Parliament about whether legislative or executive action is compatible with the bill of rights. I would suggest a constitutional committee of the Privy Council, consisting of the senior judges, senior politicians and perhaps also representatives of the great and good.

Such a body could be modelled on the French Conseil Constitutionnel. It would have the advantages of a broader composition, of the opportunity to consider matters in advance, and of surmounting the objections of Gardner's opponents that his bill will have unknown and possibly harmful consequences for the judiciary. A constitutional council would fit in well with the Law Commission and the increasingly impressive system of select committees. It would not be a barrier to the eventual decision to make the convention directly enforceable. Indeed, it could usefully examine the ramifications of creating a constitutional court.

If the real motive for the Gardner bill is promotion of human rights and the real motive for objection is the danger of yet more politicization of the judiciary, surely a constitutional council deserves serious consideration by both sides.

The author is lecturer in law at King's College, London.

Roger Scruton denounces Syria as the cause of a tragic country's woes

The Lebanese conflict seems so complex, and so far beyond any remedy that is within our power, that we are tempted to wash our hands of it. We should remember, however, that the enemies of Lebanon desire nothing so much as that the West should abandon this little island of freedom in the great ocean of Arab tyranny; and we should remember that the enemies of Lebanon are also enemies of the West.

Principal among them is Syria, Lebanon's giant neighbour which has never recognized Lebanon's right to exist, refuses to maintain diplomatic relations and has fed to its people the fiction of a "Great Syria", of which Lebanon was, and will be, a section.

Syria played a large part in fomenting the civil war which broke out in 1975, took the first opportunity to introduce troops into the Beqaa, and now occupies three-fifths of the country.

It is through Syria that many of the arms have come to the warring factions; and it is through Syria that the fanatics now reach the Lebanon from Iran, coming to this last bastion of Arabian Christendom in order to impose the holy law of Islam by force on a people who for centuries have rejected it.

Lebanon is indeed the country of hostages, but only because it is itself hostage to its neighbour. It is Syria which prevented the ratification of the tripartite accord, bombarding the Christian quarter of Beirut until President Gemayel finally tore up the offending document — Lebanon's last hope for peace with its powerful neighbour — at the feet of Syria's President Assad.

It is Syria which prevents the Lebanese cabinet from meeting, intimidating its members, and forbidding those who are in Syrian thrall from taking part in the political process. And it is with Syria's permission, and subject to her threats and instructions, that such leaders as the Christian Frangieh and the Druze Jumblatt — both of whom, severed from the moderating influence of the Lebanese parliament, have returned to their ancestral role as feudal warlords — can maintain a semblance of order in the regions under their control.

There are those who argue that law and order will be restored to Lebanon only when the process of assimilation is completed and the iron hand of Assad has been extended over all the territory which he has for so long coveted.

However, Syria could bring law to Lebanon only if it were itself governed by law. In fact Syria is a terrorist state, ruled by a cunning dictator with the help of an extensive secret police force. By article 3 of its constitution, such law as exists is based in the Islamic Shari'a, and will therefore be unacceptable to the Lebanese Christians who, officially, constitute half of the population.

Moreover, Syria could not occupy all of Lebanon, whose independence is not, like Syria's, a mere legal artefact but the embodiment of a centuries-old endeavour in which Druze, Christian and Shi'ite co-operated against the Arabian and Turkish empires. These hardened mountaineers, who exemplify every

Lebanon: frail hostage to Arab tyranny



Where guns rule: Syrian soldiers patrolling West Beirut this week

shade of religious belief known to Christianity and Islam, would prove as ungovernable from Damascus as they were from Baghdad and Constantinople.

Two factors have contributed to Assad's success in his campaign of annexation. The first is the co-operation of the Arab League, Lebanon's parliamentary government is founded not in mere tolerance — a virtue which characterized the Islamic empires at their best — but in the Christian Enlightenment value of "freedom of conscience". The constitution was designed to balance, and if possible to resolve, the inevitable conflicts to which this freedom gives rise.

Lebanon has therefore emerged in the modern world as the only Arab country with an active legal opposition, a free press and a full rule of law. Nowhere else in the Arab world could a newspaper criticize the president, call for a change of government, or debate the issues of the day. Consequently, Lebanon is a living affront to the Arab country where the sole Arab country where the language of God can be used to condemn his earthly regents.

The second factor weighing heavily against Lebanon is the western press, which has tended to blame Lebanon's misfortunes on Israel and America. Lebanon's anarchy, it has argued, is largely the result of Israel's 1982 invasion which drove the Shi'ites from

their villages to the shanty towns of West Beirut.

The Christian militia is unjustifiably dubbed "right-wing" or even "fascist" by many correspondents. It revealed its true nature, according to the story, when a section, led by criminals, massacred hundreds of Palestinians in the camps outside Beirut. America's threatening gestures completed this act of "provocation" and now, we are told, the Arab world has rallied to the cause of the downtrodden Muslims of Lebanon against the oppressive rule of a fierce Maronite minority.

In the face of myths which make such easy contact with western guilt feelings, it is impossible to do justice to the facts. Here, nevertheless, are some of them:

Unlike the Syrians, the Israelis have withdrawn from the territory which they invaded and now occupy only a small strip of it. Many of the Shi'ites who occupy the shanty towns of West Beirut were expelled from their homes by Syrians, Druze and Palestinians. The massacres at the camps have continued on a far more horrendous scale as the Shi'ite militia continue to lob shells into the midst of a people who are hated now in Lebanon as once they were in Jordan.

In West Beirut, the town of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah faction, nobody is safe, and even the Shi'a Amal, which had previously maintained a semblance of order,

was unable to guarantee my safety when I tried to cross the Green Line last Saturday.

In East Beirut, the sector defended by the Christian militia, the situation is quite different. Hostages are not taken; people, including Muslims, may still go freely about their business, and the bombs that explode are generally launched from the other side.

On Monday I visited some of the "fascist" militia who were holding a complex of flats in no man's land facing the machine-guns of the terrible Hezbollah. In these blocks Christians, driven from the south by Islamic fundamentalists, had found the only shelter available to them, living one family to a room in conditions of terror and poverty. All of them nurtured one hope, which was to return to their bombed-out villages. Those who guarded them were only their offspring, who stood at their outposts, fearful but determined, poking their Kalashnikovs between sandbagged bastions decorated with pictures of the Virgin. All were under strict orders to fire only when fired on, or when directed by the central command of the *Forces Libanaises* which control them.

Perhaps there is no better illustration of the plight of Lebanon than the story told to me by Father Sabadagher from Maghdoush, who had watched his parishioners murdered, pillaged and driven from their homes in the continual war between the Islamic sects and the Palestinians. Maghdoush, according to the legend, is the place where the Virgin waited for Christ's return from Canaan; its shrine, dedicated to Notre Dame de l'Annonce, has existed for 1,500 years. A Maronite mission had been established there with the task of reconciling the many sects and creeds.

The peace of Maghdoush was ended last December when the Army of Muslim Unity entered the area on its murderous jihad. More than two dozen villages were "purified" of their Christian population, and those who survived came for refuge.

The local Shi'a militia agreed to protect them. However, Palestinians surrounded the town, overran it after a terrifying bombardment and then suddenly withdrew. The inhabitants were now accused, by a newly radicalized Shi'ite contingent, of harbouring the enemy. Twenty were shot, four taken hostage, and the rest driven from their burning homes. The Hezbollah now controls Maghdoush, establishing its Islamic reign of terror in one of the most venerable outposts of Christendom.

All over Lebanon people like Father Sabadagher — Orthodox, Syrian, Greek Catholic, Armenian, Maronite, Chaldean — bear witness to Christ, striving for reconciliation, in face of a new and terrible fanaticism. It is in them, I believe, that the true spirit of the Lebanon is to be found; and their fate is of the greatest concern to us who share their values, and who are faced by the same implacable enemy.

The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

Why Kinnock is too low in the foothills

The Labour Party, which is launching its election campaign with the local government conference in Leeds this weekend, has come a long way since 1983. Many outside the inner core of politics have forgotten just how far.

In 1983 Labour lost a quarter of the vote it had achieved in 1979, falling from 36.9 to 27.6 per cent — the lowest share ever won by the principal opposition party. It took 1.5 million fewer votes than in any postwar election.

Neil Kinnock's achievement since he took over as leader should not be underestimated. Labour was demoralized. It was split on defence. It was being eaten away at constituency level by the Militant Tendency. It was in thrall to figures such as Arthur Scargill and Derek Hatton. Many of its MPs were dreading the process of reselection which was expected to lead to a leftist coup. The party machine was ramshackle. The unions had begun to despair of their political arm.

Kinnock has come through these traumas to emerge smiling with a party that at least has a taste of victory. But in their hearts few of them can feel that they are. The truth is that if Labour were to have hopes of climbing the mountain, it would have to have secured by now a base-camp much higher up the foothills.

Remember how far Labour fell in 1983 and look at the task now. To return to power it needs to gain 116 seats, requiring a swing of over 10 per cent. Except in 1945 such a swing has never been achieved. It is twice the postwar record swing the Conservatives managed in 1979.

To have a realistic hope of overthrowing the Conservatives, Labour had to break the Alliance. Though the Liberals and SDP have had their traumas, they are still far from broken. To have a hope of winning, Labour has to break clear, before the election campaign itself. Not once in the last seven election campaigns has

Labour increased its share of the vote during the campaign.

We are already heavily into the election run-up, but Labour has never broken clear and established a commanding lead, not even during the Tories' uncertainty in the Westland period. The party confidence through the parliamentary heat over Nimrod and now the Zircos affair tells its own story. In the last 21 opinion polls Labour has only once exceeded 40 per cent. It has averaged only 38 per cent. To win an election with that figure it would have to force the Conservatives down from their present 40 per cent average to only 34 per cent.

And as Labour begins its ballyhoo in Leeds this weekend, perhaps it brings us back into perspective to recall that in 1979 James Callaghan too took 38 per cent of the vote. He did it in a general election — and lost.

Robin Oakley
Political Editor

David Watt

They cannot all say 'Not me'

The Government has got itself into a preposterous position over the police search for the source of the Zircos leak. The Home and Scottish Secretaries have joined the Prime Minister in loathly washing their hands of the whole issue, implying that it would have been completely improper for ministers — including the Attorney-General and the Scottish Lord Advocate — to "interfere" in the investigative activities of the police. This is not only highly misleading as a matter of law; it would actually be monstrous if it were true.

So far as the constitutional conventions are concerned, the most eminent academic authorities I have been able to consult seem broadly to agree as follows: The law officers must be consulted before any prosecution occurs under the Official Secrets Act; they may well give broad guidance to the police at the start of a sensitive investigation of this kind; thereafter the investigation, as such, is in the hands of the police but the law officers are, by convention, consulted about applications for search warrants if these become necessary; and they may, with perfect propriety, insist on an application being drawn in different terms if they believe the police are asking for too much.

What this means in the BBC case is that the law officers, far from being mere messengers obliged to pass on police requests to the court unaltered (as the Government suggests), could have insisted on changing the message if they had chosen to do so. There was no constitutional ban on their saying to the police, "You can't go on a trawl like this; you must put up with the narrower authority that you were given last week at the *New Statesman*."

The fact that they did not intervene in this way was therefore a deliberate decision for which they can quite rightly be held responsible in the political arena. All Government pleading to the contrary is self-interested baldness.

It is also dangerous baldness, because it suggests that governments have no business whatever in seeing that police operations are conducted according to the general wishes of society. On the contrary, not only do they have an entirely legitimate interest in a case of this degree of public importance; they have a duty to protect the rights of the public against gross abuses of police power as the case develops, for if they do not, there is nobody else who can really fulfil that function. If politicians operate a "hands-off" policy, who on earth are supposed to have their hands on?

Theory puts most of its trust here in the common law and the British courts, or at a pinch the Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. Practice has shown that these are inadequate for that purpose. The European process is too indirect and takes too long; the British judges are actually likely to give the executive greater benefits of the doubt than the executive (worried about the political back-

lash) gives itself; redress often comes, if at all, after the damage has been done.

Theory therefore sensibly re-lents a little and concedes that one of the most important long-stops under our system is, or ought to be, the ability of these curious hybrid figures, the law officers — part party politicians, part ennobled guardians of the Queen's justice — to bring a licensed touch of "political" guidance into the majestic neutrality of the legal system. The Government's new doctrine that this very circumscribed flexibility is improper in relation to search warrants is deeply unconstitutional.

This is not to say that our system is satisfactory. It is not. And one of its most crucial defects has once again been displayed in this case — the lines of responsibility are so unclear.

Take the Special Branch. It comes, formally speaking, under the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police and therefore under the Home Secretary. But it is dispersed through the main police stations of the country, where its presence is supposed to be a secret and where special orders are placed on its officers in order to keep the other police out. On the ground it is therefore very much a law to itself and can (as any ordinary copper will tell you with considerable resentment) get away with all sorts of things that the rest of the force cannot. It is also, in practice but not in theory, the agent of the security services, who are themselves responsible to the Prime Minister and not the Home Secretary.

Who can be said to be really "in control" of this tangle and who can be genuinely held responsible when things go wrong, as they clearly did in Glasgow? The Home Secretary says, "Not me"; the Scottish Secretary says, "Not me"; the law officers (with the honourable exception of the Lord Advocate, who has now blown the gaff) say, "Not us"; and the Prime Minister, in her usual charming way, accuses anyone who asks the question of lack of patriotism.

If ever there was a demonstration that justice is, and ought to be, considered, a highly political matter, this was it. Nobody wants to return to the practices of the 18th century, when the law was virtually a branch of politics. But the fashionable attempt to quarantine the system more and more from politics is misconceived; beyond a certain point, we merely lose more control rather than gaining it.

The proper answer is not to hand over the protection of our rights under the law to the judges, lock, stock and barrel, simply because we don't trust our politicians not to abuse them. Of course we need the protection of the courts but we should also elect better politicians and put them to work in a system, perhaps with a Ministry of Justice, under which their political opponents and the media really can ensure that they are brought to book when they and the police, for whom they must ultimately be responsible, overstep the mark.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Politicians really are just like us

Mr Kinnock yesterday asked the Prime Minister about the recent allegedly lenient sentences for rape, and about the recent American nuclear test in Nevada.

A Conservative backbencher asked her about the recent attempt to change the licensing laws. Another Conservative backbencher asked her about Labour's allegedly hostile attitude to income tax relief on mortgage interest.

What these subjects had in common was that they had been in the newspapers recently. Politicians are no different from most other people — creatures of the moment, perhaps even more so than most other people. When they question the Prime Minister, they are little different from the people who call up radio phone-ins. That is, they are ordinary folk who have become enraged about something, they have just read.

So it is perhaps not generally realised the extent to which Mr Speaker Weatherill's *Questions to the Prime Minister* is based on what is perhaps the British constitution's most representative institution. Sir Robin Day's *Question Time*. Love him or hate him, you can't deny that Mr Weatherill is a bit of character. His flamboyant wig, black stockings and constant cries of "or-dah, or-dah" have made him known to millions. The public particularly like it when he gets angry, and tells people in the studio audience to sit down.

The transcript of yesterday's *Questions to the Prime Minister* shows similarities between the two programmes. Our first questioner was Mr Kinnock, from South Wales, the leader of the Labour Party by occupation. What's your question, Mr Kinnock?

Mr Kinnock asked whether the panel thought that "it is sometimes difficult to comprehend the insensitivity shown by judges to the sufferings of the victims of crime."

Would we be right in thinking that Mr Kinnock was referring to the recent allegedly lenient sentences at the Old Bailey? He was? Well, this looks like a question for you, Mrs Thatcher.

Mrs Thatcher: "We share the deep concern about the

dreadful crime of rape. It is the Government's task to see that sufficient maximum sentences are available to the courts to deal with these matters. Clause 29 of the Criminal Justice Bill allows the Attorney-General to refer to the Court of Appeal cases which seem to him to raise issues of public importance. It would enable proper sentencing to be maintained. There has been a similar proposal before Parliament before, but it was lost in the House of Lords.

Want to come back on that, Mr Kinnock?

Mr Kinnock: "I agree broadly with what the right hon Lady about sentences and I offer the view that while it is necessary for judges to be detached in the name of the law, they sometimes show insensitivity to the sufferings of the victims which it is difficult to comprehend."

Well, that's an interesting point, Mr Kinnock. But we must stop you there, otherwise we'll be here all night. Mrs Thatcher.

"I must point out to the right hon Gentleman that the matter came up on a bill in the Lords, when Labour and the Alliance voted solidly to oppose it. I take it that on proposals to enable longer sentences to be imposed, they will this time support it" (cheers from Tories in studio audience). I know that the right hon Gentleman does not like the facts and finds them very embarrassing.

No need to get personal, Mrs Thatcher. Mr Kinnock has come all the way from South Wales to put his question and he's entitled to a civil answer. Well, what do you say to Mrs Thatcher's reply, Mr Kinnock? Briefly, though.

I think that she will want to reflect on her use of my previous question which I thought was a matter of common view among us, notwithstanding her efforts to make party points. The fact remains that the matter to which she refers would not have gone to appeal on this kind of case as I presume she wants."

Well, if you thought it was matter of common view, Mr Kinnock, why did you ask her the question? Never mind. We must get on. Next question...



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HARD LESSONS OF WAPPING

The two hundred and second year of *The Times* will go down in its history as one of freedom and strife. We were set free from damaging trade union practices inside our gates. We exchanged them for damaging trade union practices outside.

The strife inside our production plants had been mostly hidden; that outside could not be. Day by day abusive crowds stood in narrow east London streets. Saturday nights turned into televised opportunities to fight the police.

The detritus washed well beyond Wapping. Into the litter of the picket line came propaganda, hypocrisy and censorship.

Yesterday the main trade union involved, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, called off the industrial dispute which was its cause. Its General Secretary, Miss Brenda Dean, said afterwards that she would never forget the ravages of the past twelve months. The Chairman of News International, Mr Rupert Murdoch, said that it had been a sad strike, an unnecessary strike and that it was in everyone's interests that it be at an end. We agree with both statements.

Miss Dean and her colleagues also believe that the

treatment of SOGAT members by News International is "a disgrace to our so-called democracy", that "the law needs to be changed to bring the pendulum back to that of a fair and equitable society." We respect those views. Our ideal is daily to take part in open democratic debate with those whose ambitions for British society are different from our own but whose commitment to our democratic processes is as strong.

We have not been helped in this by Labour's official boycott of our journalists - which was never successful although party sources often preferred not to be named. During the dispute there also emerged a different intolerance, that of extremist left-wing groups whose repressive creeds and violent methods were not a temporary response to a trade dispute but a permanent article of faith.

The presence of Trotskyist banners on the Wapping battlefield should have provided a vivid reminder to those who talk of "so-called democracies". In countries which the Workers Revolutionary party might dignify with the democratic title, Miss Dean would not be as free, as she is today, to look to the true concerns of her trade union.

The time has not yet come for the full history of this dispute to be written. The temptation to reach instant conclusions about its importance in itself, and the importance of extremists in its course, must be resisted. Our immediate views are more practical.

SOGAT can now return to the job of representing the interests of its 200,000 members in a key British industry. Its leaders will have noticed how much has been achieved by negotiation with employers since January 1986 and how little by strike and conflict. Its members will have seen the rewards for flexibility in learning new skills, the penalties of expecting the past to be forever. The National Graphical Association, whose executive meets today, should see the same truths.

The Labour Party and the TUC should look at their record alongside that during the miners' strike and ask themselves where they stand when the hard choices need to be made. They have shown aspects of themselves in this past year that have appalled many of their own supporters and given ammunition to their enemies. Hard lessons have been learnt at Wapping. If they are heeded, the fight may not have been totally in vain.

MR BOTHA'S MISCALCULATION

It is not rare for a man to destroy the thing he most wishes to save. Colonel Oliver North, for instance, may have done just that to the Contras. Did President Botha of South Africa do so a month ago when he decided to call a general election to rescue both his own reputation and the party over which he presides from attacks by right-wing Afrikaners? For by the time this long and brutal election comes to an end on May 6th, both could lie in ruins.

Mr Botha's reputation rested firmly on his undoubted courage in leading the National Party and South Africa away from doctrinaire apartheid and into a series of far-reaching reforms which, if they failed to satisfy black aspirations and the demands of a world simplistically searching for a meek surrender of power by South Africa's minority, nevertheless sundered Afrikanerdom from the National Party from top to bottom. In May last year, however, faced with insurrection in the black community, a world which insisted on moving the goal posts of reform, and an ever more confident onslaught from the right, Mr Botha qualified.

A man whom even South African Liberals believed had no peer as a reformer in the annals of Southern African leadership - not, admittedly, noted for its reformist zeal - had reached the end of his tether. Since then, he has vainly tried to return to the policies of the past, to rely increasingly on the "Kragadigheid" (forcefulness) which characterised the rule of his predecessors, and to revive the remnants of old-style apartheid in a corrupted form as the sole basis for a political accommodation with black South Africa.

Any suggestion that he would revert to reform once the election was won has been largely dissipated by his un-

compromising performance in the first days of the new parliamentary session in Cape Town. Granted that an election is frequently a distorting mirror of party policy, even the most adept political contortionist - which Mr Botha is not - would find it extremely difficult to reverse his policy positions of the past few days. He has finally rejected the Kwa Natal proposals; he has committed himself irrevocably to the Group Areas Act which divides South Africa into coloured residential areas; and he has revived the long discredited concept of independent black city states as the vehicle for black political aspirations.

It has been a depressing performance by any standards, but particularly by the standards of the reformist element within Afrikanerdom itself. It was, after all, Mr Botha himself who first taught these so-called "new Nats" to think the unthinkable and to challenge the old verities of the apartheid philosophy. Having released that genie from the bottle, he now finds that he cannot put it back. A whole new wave of Afrikaners from academics to businessmen, from students to Yuppies, no longer see South Africa's future political structure as defined by its constituent racial groups. Instead, they are ready to test the concept of free association, albeit after hedging it about with the protection of minority cultural rights.

Even the Afrikaner Broederbond, once all-powerful, which in years past decided what Nationalist governments said and did, but the influence of which has waned dramatically since its membership was fractured by the right wing split, accepts the inevitability of black majority rule. Indeed, a secret report outlining the conditions for protecting Afrikaner interests

under a government with a black majority, which was originally sent to all Broederbond members last year, has just been revived by the right to embarrass Mr Botha, himself a Broederbond member, by portraying him as a closet reformist. But it has aroused less controversy in South Africa than might have been expected - a further sign that the tide is running with the reformers.

The dismay of the new Nats over Mr Botha's intransigence has gradually escalated from a threat to stay at home on election day to a swelling movement to draft independent candidates who will challenge the government from the left.

There is little doubt that the extent of this disaffection of the Afrikaner elite - exemplified by Dr Denis Worrall's resignation and echoed quietly by many MPs still within the party ranks - has taken the government by surprise. The revolt, still in its early stages, has also taken the script of the election campaign out of its author's hands. The attack from the Nationalist left will compel Mr Botha to be even more candid about his vision of his country's future. And that vision as unveiled during the past week is forcing more and more Nationalists to join the ranks of the dissidents.

It remains to be seen what this dissent can achieve electorally. Nor can a return to moderate reformism by Mr Botha be wholly ruled out. Stranger events have disturbed South African politics. As matters now appear, however, the result on May 6th could begin to tear the heart out of Afrikaner Nationalism and thus out of apartheid. By trying to out-right the right, Mr Botha has set up countervailing strains on the left. The election he designed to save his party could yet prove the catalyst which hastens its destruction.

Hedge against snow

From Mr J. D. Sly
Sir, As Borough Engineer to the Borough of Swale, in Kent, which covers the Isle of Sheppey, and responsible for, among other things, the clearance of the recent heavy snowfalls, I had a wry smile in reading the letter from Borough Engineer Moore, in your Saturday edition (January 31).

The use of snow fencing in my area, particularly the exposed part of Sheppey, has been used for many years to minimise snow drifting. In most cases this has been effective, but for obvious reasons where you have falls of snow of more than 25in in 36 hours followed by a force seven gale, this simple remedy just cannot cope.

This snowfall has been recognised as by far the worst in living memory in this area and it is just not possible or sensible to gear up expensive plant to cater for just such rarities. My council has not spent, nor intends to spend, "vast sums" on snow-clearing machinery.

By proper organising of our own and hired plant we were able to open and keep open roads covered in snowdrifts 8ft high. Most were open within two to three days, the very worst no longer than six days. I do believe this is the better way of deploying resources and ensur-

ing the best way of dealing with what is a once-in-a-lifetime problem. I am sure the ratepayers of Swale would agree.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. SLY, Borough Engineer, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, February 3.

Dual office

From Mr T. L. F. Royle
Sir, The recent problems encountered in the City have highlighted an issue that has long concerned me throughout my business career. This is the practice of combining the post of chairman and chief executive in one person. It is fully understandable why so many leaders of companies, both public and private, follow this practice, whether because of insecurity, power or the view that they will get things done quicker.

I believe it is unwise, inefficient and open to grave abuse. I further believe that there should be an amendment to the Companies Act that makes compulsory such a separation of duties. If the chief executive is good, it will in no way inhibit his flair and imagination; if he is bad, both shareholders and employees, quite apart from the

public at large, will benefit from a point of appeal above him.
Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY ROYLE,
5 Crescent Place, SW3,
January 29.

Human rights

From Councillor G. L. Murchinson
Sir, Some of your readers might be of the opinion that Mr Levin (January 30) painted a highly distorted picture of the Labour Party's attitude toward the denial of human rights in Russia.

My own experience suggests otherwise. Following Bernard Levin's December 12 article on Alexander Ogorodnikov I proposed at a meeting of the Harlow District Council a motion condemning the persecution of religious believers in the Soviet Union.

Not a single Labour councillor felt he could support the motion. They were not, however, deaf, dumb and blind to the pleas of help from the Sandinista Government of Nicaragua. Our ally, the United States, was suitably insulted and condemned.
Yours faithfully,
GUY L. MURCHINSON,
145 Joyner's Field,
Newbury, Essex,
January 30.

Lebanon's unresolved conflicts

From the Ambassador of Lebanon
Sir, In his article, "How to deal with Lebanon?" (January 30) Mr Hans-Heino Kopietz offers a sweeping recipe: a wholesale quarantine of Lebanon, people, institutions, gunmen and innocents altogether, which would isolate the entire country from the rest of the world.

These comments offer a remarkable contrast between the depth of the question and the simplicity of the answers given. Throughout the article terrorism and kidnapping are cited as if they were God-sent plagues, the roots of which nobody can fathom.

Actually political violence in Lebanon did not emerge from emptiness but is the result of a complex web of grievances and unresolved conflicts; any attempt to analyse them as a separate security issue will ignore their complex political background and inevitably leads to conclusions such as those advocated by the author - namely a quarantine of the whole country.

Instead of offering a well-known list of organisations, Mr Kopietz would have been better to review the roots of political violence in Lebanon and the Middle East, namely the continued Israeli occupation of the south and the refusal of Israel to withdraw completely and unconditionally according to UN Resolution 423, and to envisage a constructive solution to the Palestinian question.

Chaos in Lebanon is not random; actually it is manipulated by outside forces and countries who sponsor many of the outrages committed in Lebanon and sometimes behind Lebanese masks.

Israel and Zionism

From Mr Michael Adams and others
Sir, Supporters of Israel habitually accuse her critics of anti-semitism in the hope of discrediting and discouraging them. Israeli governments have even claimed that no distinction can be made between anti-Israelism, anti-Zionism and anti-semitism.

In replying to Mr Bernard Levin (February 2) we have not read *Perdidon* and therefore cannot tell whether the play is anti-semitic or not. If it is, we would condemn it. But we always utterly condemn anti-semitism. A large and growing majority of world opinion is strongly and rightly critical of Israel's international conduct and especially of her brutal oppression of the Palestinian people. Identifying such criticism with anti-semitism is folly.

If Bernard Levin cannot see that to condone Israel's merciless bombardment of Beirut, its slaughter of thousands of innocent civilians and its cruel suppression of the Palestinians is much more likely to encourage anti-semitism

than to attack such conduct he is out of touch with reality. We would also draw Mr Levin's attention to the brave minority of Jewish people - some of them people of deep religious faith - who are avowed opponents of Zionism and friends of the Palestinians. These people are proof to the Palestinians that their oppressor is not the Jewish people but a political movement - Zionism. They, and not the Zionists, are the effective opponents of anti-semitism.

Mr Levin should also take care before accusing other people of double standards. His *Times* readers will have noticed that while he often fearlessly attacks the oppression of Jews by non-Jews he remains miserably silent about the oppression of non-Jews by Jews. Those who want to serve the long-term interest of Israel should not attack her critics but urge her to deal justly with the Palestinians.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADAMS,
MAYHEW,
DENNIS WALTERS,
43 Royal Avenue, SW3,
February 3.

Sport and politics

From the Right Reverend P. B. Harris and others
Sir, It was with dismay that we read your report (January 19) of the Welsh Rugby Union's veto on a proposed match between Welsh and Argentinean teams.

It is one thing for sportsmen to show their abhorrence of an evil regime in South Africa by severing contacts as apartheid is still a live issue. The case of the Falklands War is quite different. The guns ceased firing in the South Atlantic four-and-a-half years ago. Argentina, like Wales, has lost her loved ones. President Alfonsín courageously opposed the war in 1982 and Argentine families have laid waste to the British dead in St Paul's Cathedral.

John Hall, of Gulliver's Sports Travel, said "there comes a time when you have to build bridges". The Welsh community are in an ideal position to do this. There is a distinctive and lively Welsh community in Argentina which is saddened by the rift between the two nations.

Before Christmas an Argentine lady, fluent in Welsh and Spanish, said to a visiting Englishwoman:

Hero of the Iceni

From Mr H. T. B. Clayton
Sir, The article by Mr John A. Hill, "A Roman in Britain" (January 27), states that Gaius Julius Alpinus Classicianus, procurator of the Roman province of Britain immediately following the Boudicca rebellion, has remained "an unsung hero of the story". This is not so as regards descendants of the Iceni. More

than 30 years ago my uncle, the late Rev P. B. (Tubby) Clayton, while Vicar of All Hallows by the Tower, arranged with T. H. Norfolk, for scouts to attend a ceremony on Tower Hill to pay respects to Classicianus for his pacificatory policy. I believe this ceremony was an annual event for several years.

Yours faithfully,
TOM CLAYTON,
70 Albert Drive, Wimbledon, SW19.

"What has happened to Britain? She used to be an example to the world." It is not time to begin to build bridges and to work for peace?
Yours faithfully,
PATRICK B. HARRIS (former Bishop of Northern Argentina),
BILL FLAUG (General Secretary, South American Mission Society),
ALAN WEBSTER (Dean, St Paul's),
91 Waverley Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

From Mr Christopher Morris
Sir, I am glad that your correspondent (report, January 29) has disposed of the canard that C. B. Llewellyn was of coloured ancestry and therefore the first coloured cricketer to play for South Africa.

But it is not widely known that the first South African side to tour England (1894) fully intended bringing A. Hendricks, a coloured Cape Malay, said by visiting English professionals to be the best bowler in the world. Unfortunately the Cape politicians, led by Prime Minister Cecil Rhodes, forbade it.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MORRIS,
King's College, Cambridge.

From Miss Margaret Brentnall
Sir, Mr Christopher Booker mentioned (January 29) the omission of Laurence Whistler from Tom Devonshire Jones's article. May I add another notable omission?

John Hutton designed and engraved the 66 larger-than-life saints and angels which comprise the great west window of Coventry Cathedral, and a large proportion of his commissioned work, until his death in 1978, was ecclesiastical.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BRENTNALL,
The Sanctuary,
Lynne Castle, Nr Hythe, Kent,
January 30.

Chasing hares
From Dr M. A. N. Loewe
Sir, I write to plead that, before it is too late, journalists and others should follow the Chinese by denoting the current year by the hare rather than the rabbit - a very different animal in terms of physiology.

It is hardly surprising that the idiosyncratic habits of the hare should give rise to wonder and speculation; and it is the hare, not the rabbit, which features in Chinese mythology as a symbol of rebirth after destruction, often being portrayed in the moon.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LOEWE,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Oriental Studies,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge.

Absence of envy over equal pay

From the Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission

Sir, Barbara Amiel, in her article (January 28) referred to Mrs Thatcher allowing "the Equal Opportunities Commission to administer the nightmarish Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value amendment - a dangerous piece of social legislation pushed by radical feminists which is setting female workers against male workers, and playing to the worst and greediest instincts of women".

The Equal Opportunities Commission's statutory duties include the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunities between men and women generally. Between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of our complaints come from men, and I hope we treat them just as fairly.

The equal value amendment is certainly not administered by the Equal Opportunities Commission. The legislation allows men's and women's jobs to be evaluated objectively by independent experts in terms of skill, effort and decision, perhaps comparing qualified nurses, cooks and mechanics or speech therapists and clinical psychologists.

At present women's pay stands at about 75 per cent because many jobs are regarded as men's jobs or women's jobs, the latter often being less well paid, although highly skilled and very responsible.

We are about fairness and justice, not envy. Anybody who feels they have a case under the legislation must take it, with or without the EOC's support, to an industrial tribunal for it to be considered within a properly constituted legal framework, with right of appeal to the highest courts of the land by either side.

There are nearly one million one-parent families of which, in nine out of ten cases, the woman is the breadwinner, often perhaps due to death or divorce. Three times as many families would be on supplementary benefit if the wife were not earning.

The issue of fair pay for women is of great importance to their husbands and families as well. The Equal Opportunities Commission recognises that the best way of achieving equal opportunities in our country is by men and women working together and very much welcomes the fact that many men and women of all parties, whether employers or employees, are gradually, in co-operation, achieving success in this important field.

Yours sincerely,
PLATT OF WRITTLE, Chairman,
Equal Opportunities Commission,
Overseas House,
Quay Street, Manchester,
January 29.

Clearly missing

From the Chairman of Art in Churches

Sir, The spirit of Dean Hussey to whom Mr Devonshire Jones referred in his article, "Christian art under a bushel" (January 17), has indeed remained in the Church. It was Hussey who helped to inspire, during his retirement, the foundation and establishment of Art in Churches, a non-denominational body concerned to raise the standard of contemporary works in churches and to encourage good artists of the younger generation.

The visual arts have moved a considerable distance since some of the artists mentioned by Mr Devonshire Jones were regularly commissioned. If one looks up the records, one can discover a great number of works in churches throughout England, commissioned in the last 40 years, and this has been far from sporadic.

Whether to collect some of them and exhibit them away from their natural settings is open to question. People today are mobile, and there is great merit in taking the trouble to go where these works are and see them. Let them speak for themselves properly, in their own environment.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. BISHOP
(Chairman, Art in Churches),
26 The Close, Norwich.

From Miss Margaret Brentnall
Sir, Mr Christopher Booker mentioned (January 29) the omission of Laurence Whistler from Tom Devonshire Jones's article. May I add another notable omission?

John Hutton designed and engraved the 66 larger-than-life saints and angels which comprise the great west window of Coventry Cathedral, and a large proportion of his commissioned work, until his death in 1978, was ecclesiastical.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BRENTNALL,
The Sanctuary,
Lynne Castle, Nr Hythe, Kent,
January 30.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 6 1984

First produced on February 14, 1985, Oscar Wilde's play has enjoyed countless revivals, one of them in the West End as recently as 1982. The 1984 production contained a distinguished cast, down to James Mason as Merriman, a bitter Charles Morgan was our drama critic at the time.

OLD VIC

"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"
By OSCAR WILDE

Lane: Morland Graham
Algermon Moncreiff: George Curno
John Worthing, J.P.: Roger Lacey
Lady Bracknell: Anne Seiler
Gwendolen Fairfax: Flora Robson
Miss Prism: Rita London
Cecily Cardew: Ursula Jeans
Rev Canon Chasuble, D.D.: Charles Laughton
Merriman: James Mason

In the theatre 39 is a very dangerous age. Is there any other comedy first performed in 1895 that survives as this does? While the play continues the audience is swept continually by gusts of laughter and by those lighter breezes of pleasure - little gasps of surprise joy - that are the true applause of wit. The laughter, moreover, is of the kind that seems to say, not simply, "What fun!" but "How the man writes!" and last night, in an interval, the observant playgoer might add to the pleasures of discrimination those of curiosity and sentiment for in the stalls the first Gwendolen Fairfax (Miss Irene Vanbrugh) and the first Algermon Moncreiff (Mr Alan Ayresworth) were to be seen in consultation over a piece of paper containing - what? - photographs of the performances in which they appeared with Alexander a few years ago?

They cannot have been dissatisfied with the present revival, the best within memory of all but veterans of the theatre. The Old Vic depends greatly on a stock company, and it would be surprising if every part were faultlessly cast. That Miss Lancaster's Ariel should be transformed into Miss Prism was too much to hope for, and the admirable governess was conspicuously out of step; while Miss Flora Robson, clear and sharply amusing though the greater part of her performance was, had not always the shrewd, town-bred, cultivated innuendo which, particularly in the second act's feminine duel, should be an almost unsmiling contrast with Cecily's girlish stammering. Indeed, if there is a fault in the production, it is in its tendency now and then to laugh at its own jokes. Even Miss Aileen Seyler, whose Lady Bracknell is elsewhere deliciously solemn, is inclined to give too much away when she is cross-examining poor Worthing about his origin in a hand-bag. The more frivolously extravagant Wilde's invention is, the more certainly should it be allowed to make its own effect.

That it is, in general, allowed to do so is the merit of Mr Guthrie's production. He has neither gaudied the play nor fantasied it to make a twentieth-century holiday, and Miss Molly Macarthur's costumes and decorations, though a trifle more daring than the originals, are portraiture, not caricature. Mr George Curno, who is difficult to hear at the outset, later awakens never to an excellent liveliness, never throwing his wit at the audience, but allowing it to fall upon them like the gentle rain from heaven. Mr Roger Livesey, whose only fault is that he sometimes moves on a line that should hold him like a tin soldier on a stand, is as grave and sidereal funeral as Ernest should be - a very remarkable conversion from his recent Caliban; and though the dew of gaudy nineteenth-century innocence is not upon her, Miss Ursula Jeans's Cecily comes as near to it, with her pretty pretences and wide-eyed wit, as anyone is likely to come nowadays. Mr Charles Laughton's Chasuble is thick with the oil of gentlemanly hypocrisy, and Mr Morland Graham's butler "gives satisfaction" with the right air of unconscious brilliance. For the greater part of the evening one receives the impression for which the play was designed - the impression that one is living in the company of people to whom genius, like cucumber sandwiches, is a commonplace.

Rallying call

From Mr Raymond Harvey
Sir, Your correspondents informed us (January 27) that the Alliance has "borrowed" Henry Purcell's Trumpet Tune in D as its election battle tune.

This piece of music is now believed to have been composed by Jeremiah Clarke (1673-1707) and to have formed part of a stage work called *The Island Princess*. The music for this was contributed by Jeremiah Clarke. Daniel Purcell (Henry's brother) and Richard Leveridge.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND HARVEY,
21 Fassett Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

From the Reverend Alan Duke
Sir, On many occasions I have led brides into church to the strains of Purcell's Trumpet Tune. Is it now to be maintained that I am "mixing religion with politics"? I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ALAN DUKE,
St Luke's Vicarage,
St Luke's Road, Torquay, Devon.

From Mr S. H. Reid
Sir, What was the colour of the ties being worn by the Alliance leaders? Looked like iron pyrites to me.
Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN H. REID,
32 Delius Close, Brighton Hill,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

The hospital fund founded by a prince

On February 6, 1897, *The Times* printed an appeal from the Prince of Wales for the formation of a fund to support the London hospitals and the "source of anxiety and solicitude" as part of the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Three weeks ago, and 90 years later, the charity, now called the King's Fund, drew attention to the danger facing London hospitals with resources being moved out of the capital, in its publication, *Planned Health Services for Inner London*, resulting in headlines like *Hospital Shake-up Sliding To Chaos*, *Authorities Warn...Health Chiefs Fear For Services In London After Cuts and Hospital Cuts Plan Rapped*.

The Prince of Wales has succeeded his great-grandfather (and his grandfather and great-grandfather) as President of the King's Fund. Much-respected in the circles of health care, the fund rarely hits the public eye. Yet as educator, management trainer, mover and shaker and filler-in of gaps, the fund can hardly be matched. In 1904, it made the first statistical analysis of London's largest general hospitals to provide comparative information centrally on expenditure and prices. Sev-

enty-three years ago today, the King's Fund began to finance London hospitals through private subscriptions. Now it has become involved in general health care

ent-ty-three years later it is making quality assessments of health care.

The first general council had the Bishop of London, Cardinal Vaughan, the Chief Rabbi, the Postmaster-General, Sir Joseph Lister and other great names in the field of philanthropy and medicine. Lord Rothschild was treasurer. Nearly a quarter of a million pounds was quickly raised.

Today the Bishop, the Cardinal and the Chief Rabbi are still on the general council, but they have been joined by the heads of four regional health authorities, and many others, although the Postmaster-General seems to have gone. Today, there is hardly less anxiety and solicitude about health care in London and generally.

Says Robert Maxwell, secretary to the fund for the last

six years: "Edward might be a bit surprised by the fund that now bears his name. We have these three quite big operations — the college, the centre and the institute and publishing. The institute is the newest and smallest, but essentially they are three complementary businesses."

The fund also believes in autonomy. "In the end," says Mr Maxwell, "it should be individuals who decide their own care with professional advice, and it should be in some sense the community that decides its collective care."

"This is partly the original view. The fund has always had the reasonable outsider's view of what medicine is about and a professional view of what medicine is about — not always the same thing."

"These views have been around from the beginning. There is an interesting letter Lord Lister wrote to the Prince of Wales in 1898 — the Prince had asked if the fund could give money to homeopathic hospitals, in which he was very interested, and Lord Lister was charged with going away and writing a long letter of six or seven pages explaining why it was not appropriate."

There are several directions in which the fund turns its work. Mr Maxwell said: "The people we are trying to reach are the professionals, and the patients associations. We try to develop management within the health services, and we try to influence those who influence and shape health policy."

"Grant-making goes right back to the beginning of the fund, and we are increasingly asking ourselves how we can make useful cross-links between our main three areas and grant-making."

He points out that it is an oddity that there is no organization for London in health or in social affairs generally, and that those in the front line running hospitals and looking after patients have not much time to stand



Royal heritage: Headquarters of the King's Fund College in Palace Gate, Bayswater, London, drawn by David Gentleman. The fund originated with a letter to *The Times* on February 6, 1897 — see excerpt right — by the then Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. The present Prince of Wales is today's president.



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

We are requested by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to publish the following important statement: —
MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, PALE-WALK, S.W.,
Feb. 6, 1897.

Having ascertained from the Queen that she has no wish to express a preference for any one of the many proposals for the 60th anniversary of her reign, I feel at liberty to bring to the notice of the inhabitants of the Metropolis a project lying very near my heart, its object being to attach the sentiment of gratitude for the blessings which the country has enjoyed during the last 60 years to a scheme of permanent beneficence.

The finances of the hospitals of London have long been a source of anxiety and solicitude. An analysis included in one of the audited statements of account for the year 1896 of 122 metropolitan hospitals and convalescent homes shows a deficiency of £70,000 in the ordinary receipts as compared with the ordinary expenditure, while, if we limit the figures to institutions which failed to meet their outgoings, the deficiency is increased to £102,500.

In that belief, I have asked the co-operation of the representative committees, whose names are appended, and I propose with their assistance to invite subscriptions of 1s. per annum and upwards from all classes for 'the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's reign.'

regarded will depend on how people estimate the work we are doing now, and whether they continue to trust us.

"One of the dangers of controversy — and we have to be controversial from time to time — is that some people feel we are partisan, and that they need to deal with us defensively. Governments do not like criticism very much, but we are lucky in our inheritance of independence and our contacts, being largely trusted by the establishment and the non-establishment."

One of the dangers he foresees is that they might try to do too much. Asked to take on an enormous subject like equal opportunity and race in

the health service. "I found it irresistible," said Mr Maxwell, "partly because we had been thinking about it, and had a conscience about it, and also because it needs doing."

He comes from a background of management consultancy, industry and running the endowment fund of St Thomas's hospital, an ideal set of qualifications for the varied aspects of the fund's work.

How does he view the fund and the relationship with health services and health care?

"It's like the crocodile and the tick bird — it's helpful to the crocodile to have the little beast around."

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June Huntington
Co-Ordinator of Educational Programmes
OR
Greg Parson
Co-Ordinator of Field Development
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ESCATA wishes to
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FOCUS

THE KING'S FUND/2

A tonic to pep up the health service

The sober purposes of the King's Fund College are lodged in a flamboyant red-brick Edwardian pile, formerly a private house. The college is, in the words of Gordon Best, its recently appointed director, "a cross between a business school and a management consultancy for the health service."

When it seemed that the NHS would do much of the King's Fund work, the educational side expanded. In 1949 a College for Ward Sisters was established, followed in 1951 by a Hospital Administrative Staff College and School of Hospital, and in 1953 by a Staff College for Matrons. In 1968 an amalgamation resulted in the King's Fund College. Today there are 25 highly qualified Fellows in the faculty.

The greater part of its income is from the health service. "In one way or another," says Gordon Best, "we have 40 or 50 customers."

The college can afford to take on long-term projects, with small groups of senior management attending for two days a week over six or seven weeks, or over a period of two years, working in the classroom or in the field.

Born in the United States, Gordon Best trained as an architect. Arriving in Britain to take a second degree, he worked on the design of a hospital in an architect's office in his spare time, and was so horrified by the ineptitude and ignorance shown that he deserted architecture and took a degree in operational research.

He taught at University College, London, and has worked for the fund for four years.

The NHS, he says, is over-administered and under-managed. As the largest single employer in western Europe, it should be considered in the same light as a large international business. The imperative, he says, is to change from an administered public service to a dynamically managed service. This involves an organization that is effective, efficient and capable of taking initiatives rather than reacting to conditions. An approximation of the two different requirements would be that administrators



Robert Maxwell, secretary to the King's Fund: "We are trying to reach the professionals and the patients associations"

have to be good at noughts and crosses, and managers have to be good at chess.

As many as a thousand regional and district managers, chief executives, health service treasurers, senior managers and consultants pass through the college during a year, providing a body of trained people.

For years the idea has been that the administrator facilitated the work of the doctors and nurses, without looking at the best value of the work. There is the necessity for doctors to take more responsibility for the resource spending, and this, together with an element of what he describes as "simple awareness-raising" are part of the courses available.

The biggest problem the college faces is how to bring about change in organizations resistant to it, where people are not used to persuading, debating, arguing and succeeding. The other problem is that the staff can work all the hours there are and find themselves at exhaustion point.

Money for little miracles

Grant-making was the first preoccupation of the King's Fund. In 1898, £22,000 was given to renovate wards in 13 London hospitals, providing 240 more beds.

The tradition continues. Iden Wickings, deputy secretary of the fund, responsible for overseeing grant-making, points out the difficulty: Who do you support? "It's like comparing oranges with pineapples," he says. "We have about £2 million to give away each year, and what we look for has to have something to do with health care in London."

One success was the King's Fund Bed, more than 200,000 of which were produced, after a working party set up in 1963. Grants have been given in the past to report on noise control in hospitals (1958) and for buying the site of St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham, south London, in 1963.

A grant can be for any sum, and much of the grant-making is seed corn, to encourage people to set up organizations and groups which initially need support, but which can continue under their own steam.

Another initiative was the setting-aside of a sum of money for innovative ideas which had not got very far, through lack of funds or staff, which were designed to improve health care provided in Greater London. With a short list of three (from 52), the winner was the Community Orthopaedic Project (COPE) at

Oldchurch Hospital, Romford. It received £28,029 for a team of health-care professionals, including a social worker, physiotherapist, orthopaedicist, occupational therapist, and a project engineer. The first annual report outlines the type of care needed to support in the community patients who otherwise might spend weeks, or months, in hospital.

As Mr Wickings points out, evaluation of the worth of the project is important. If there are failures, as there will be, would the project have worked in some other way? "Once or twice a year we have a day in which we try to get together people we have funded," he says, and they go over what they are trying to do with people in the relevant fields.

There are study tours to see how other countries cope opening new horizons and providing new ideas, for a relatively small sum. "We offer hope," he says to people who have a subject they wish to study, and for whom quite small amounts — a study grant of £750, for example, or the part-funding of a research-worker post, or a guide to healthy eating or £75 for work on the pictures in hospitals can encourage and support.

There are always, he says, different ways of doing things better, or at least as well, which cost less. And the grant-making process goes out to find them.

Making sure the word gets out

The King's Fund Centre is a conference centre, offices and reference library, open six days a week. Ken Judge is the recently appointed director, and Barbara Stocking, who started as director, health services development, this year, has the brief of promoting innovative practice in health care.

"There is," says Mr Judge, "an enormous amount of research on the health service, but there is no system for researchers to market their research, so that it is picked up by the policy makers." The institute can synthesize and draw out policy implications of research and analysis, and pass it to policy makers.

They look at public expenditure, planning and the use of resources and the assessment of clinical practices (called technology assessment).

They aim to raise the quality of health-policy debate, not to prescribe solutions, to help people to start something new and different. Work is on five programmes: the London Programme, the oldest, is for primary and community care in the inner city, emphasizing ethnic minorities and disadvantaged groups. For community care for the mentally handicapped, they look for "a more ordinary life". For the informal carer, they find out what non-professionals need: quality assurance (a quarterly bulletin and information service); education and training, takes in, for example, the developing role of the ward sister.

Consensus development conferences, where the public is invited to discuss the evidence and vote on subjects like the treatment of breast cancer, have been a success.

As Mr Judge says, they are non-partisan, but not neutral: they are prepared to be controversial, but they have to work through others, to persuade, to influence.

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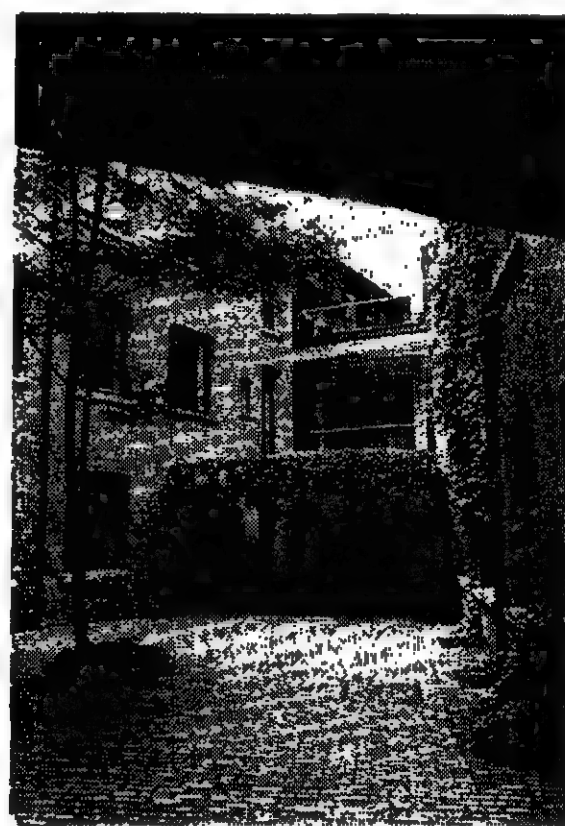
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The publishing arm of the King's Fund picks up and publishes research, initiatives and publishes original work, and prepares guides and surveys for professionals in the health-care services, taking the widest possible perspective.

Titles range from *Health Service Public Relations: a Guide to Good Practice*, to Ann Shearer's *Building Community*, on helping people coming out of care into the community. Lindsay

Grandshaw's huge history of St Mark's Hospital, viewed from the social as well as the medical aspects, a guide to cooking for kidney patients, and *From figures to facts, or how to understand health service statistics*, by Christopher Day, with cheerful cartoons by Larry, and *The Troubled Guy*, by Bryan Brooke.

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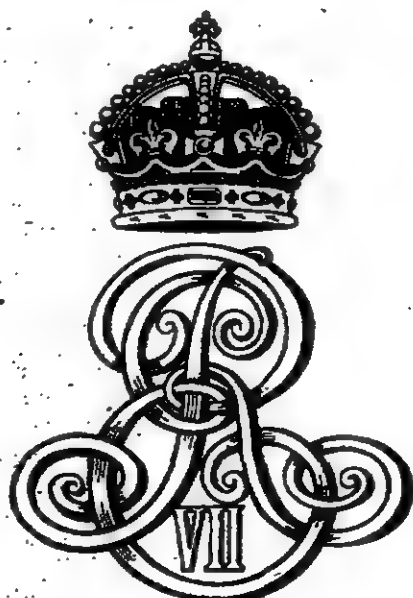
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THE ARTS

Addicts caged in a vicious circle

In the old days it was tobacco which was the hard currency inside prisons; now it is cannabis and heroin. In *This Week* (Thames), the reporter Trevor Phillips was allowed to accompany the police on a 6 a.m. raid in Bedford Prison, where dogs sniffed out cannabis resin in the kitchen, under a grating in the lavatory and in cells.

The prison governor seemed relieved there was not more of it around; it was just not

TELEVISION

possible to stamp out drugs completely while treating people "as humanely as possible in this overcrowded prison".

We saw desultory attempts to rifle through the food bags brought in to prisoners, but we heard evidence from prisoners of storage methods for drugs which the prison's non-exploratory strip-searches could not possibly uncover. On one level the report was just another indictment of our muddled-through, under-resourced prison service. But on another level it was far more disturbing.

Drug addiction in prison is a growing problem: one in five prisoners, the film suggested, may be addicts, while a third of them all will try hard drugs while inside. Yet here is a controlled environment in which addiction could be cured. Eight years ago a government advisory council suggested means to tackle this sort of problem with special therapeutic units in prisons, and solidly based after-care.

None of this has happened, so the cycle so vividly described by one heroin addict — on his ninth stint inside — of addiction, crime, prison and back to addiction, is unbroken. What has given the question added urgency now is the threat of Aids through prostitution outside prison, widely practised by both men and women as a way of raising money for drugs, and shared syringes inside prison.

In this low-key, well-made film there were some signs of action, but it all looked too little, too late.

After that the idiotic report on tea, *Stirring Stuff*, in 40 Minutes (BBC2) left a bad taste in the mouth. This was a relentlessly whimsical celebration of tea-ladies past and present which managed to be both uninformative and patronising.

A tea-lady nicknamed Dame Edna Beverage, we were told, "brings a touch of everyday reality" to her up-market advertising agency. Perhaps she should help out in the 40 Minutes office.

William Holmes

Curiously potent tract for the times

CINEMA

When the Wind Blows (PG)

Camden Plaza; Cannons Haymarket, Shaftesbury Avenue

The Mosquito Coast (PG)

Odeon Haymarket

Macaroni (PG)

Cannon Pantons Street

Just Between Friends (15)

Cannons Oxford Street, Pantons Street

Cop's Honour (18)

Cannons Oxford Street, Pantons Street

In its original form, Raymond Briggs's *When the Wind Blows* used the style and technique of a children's comic book to confront the ultimate terror of our times. How effective this proved is attested by the huge sales of the book and the success of adaptations for radio and theatre. Now Briggs, as artist-author, has collaborated with the animation director Jimmy Murakami to retell the tragicomic tale of Jim and Hilda Bloggs and the Bomb in the form of a cartoon film.

Briggs's appeal is that he is truly subversive, exposing the bluff and unconscious doomsday comedy of the Home Office booklet *Protect and Survive* — intended for distribution gratis to every British home in the event of nuclear war, but offered in 1980 to the public at a pre-holocaust price of 50p. Briggs's title is echoed in the introduction to the booklet: "The radioactive dust, falling where the wind blows it, will bring the most widespread dangers..."

The publication gives advice on planning your "fall-out room and inner refuge", on how to stock it ("notebook and pencils for messages... toys and magazines") and what to do if a death occurs in the inner refuge. It is vague on other points such as how much warning there will be, in the event of nuclear attack, to permit the rather demanding work of taking the doors off your house to build the "inner refuge" and thickening the floor above.

It all seems as pitifully inadequate as the ARP manuals issued in 1938-39 and superseded rather swiftly when the Blitz came. Jim and Hilda Bloggs, living in their retirement cottage ("Jimilda"), have nostalgic memories of the Second World War (Jim remembers fun in the Morrison shelter and Hilda fondly recalls Joe Stalin's avuncular moustache). They face the future stoically. Hilda — no feminist — has her ironing and cooking to get on with, while Jim dutifully follows the instructions in *Protect and Survive*.

Even when the bomb has fallen, Jim retains his touching confidence in the wisdom of the Powers That Be, while Hilda puts her trust in Jim. And in this honest, patriotic credulity they pass through the stages of radiation sickness into extinction.

Strangely, these daft little drawings are pathetic, not least in their stubborn unawareness of what is happening to them. With their flights of memory (sometimes in film montages, sometimes in dreamy animated sequences) invoking nostalgia for their own youth, for the unspoiled country, for the

days before, they actually seem closer to our reality than those real-life victims of Hiroshima who stare accusation from ancient news films. Their effectiveness is largely due, inevitably, to the faultless voice characterization by John Mills and Peggy Ashcroft. It is a curious but potent tract for the times.

While Jim and Hilda represent the sheep-like masses patiently awaiting their doom, Allie Fox, hero of *The Mosquito Coast*, is the exception, the individualist stubbornly fighting back. He is exasperated beyond bearing by the lethargy, indifference, bigotry, Japanese imports and junk foods of America, and convinced that tomorrow will bring the nuclear holocaust. He sweeps off his unshakably trusting wife and adoring children on a great adventure, to set up a new home in a remote Central American coastal jungle — a place not quite God-forsaken enough, since it is troubled by a rabid Fundamentalist missionary who is destined to prove rational Allie's nemesis.

What starts as a *Swiss Family Robinson* adventure becomes a grim, forbidding fable. No sooner does Allie begin to build his perfect community than the destructive

Adventure turns sour: Harrison Ford in *The Mosquito Coast*, proving there is more to him than Indiana Jones

evolutionary processes of western civilization start to reproduce themselves. The seeds are within him: under assault by enemies from outside, Allie engineers his own microcosmic holocaust. The metamorphosis of Allie seems inevitable: the leader and prophet becomes a tyrant, the idealist and eccentric genius becomes a madman.

The Australian Peter Weir is one of the few film-makers capable of sustaining the heightened pitch of fable that Paul Theroux's original novel (adapted by Paul Schrader) demands, and at the same time enforcing our belief in the story and the characters at a level of ordinary reality. Allie is a chameleon character; and we can understand the bewilderment and ambivalence of his young sons, the elder of whom (River Phoenix) narrates the story, as they observe the shifts from loving parent to crazed despot, from exciting plot to crabbed psychosis.

Harrison Ford, who previously worked with Weir on *Witness*, shows once again that there is a lot more to him than Indiana Jones. Allie's long but lovingly suffering wife gives Helen Mirren one of her most rewarding roles. The insights of child actors are often astonishing: River Phoenix, with a way of intimating depths of secret anxiety,

is every bit the equal of the adult players. Now 76, Butterfly MacQueen, the Negro comedienne who played Prissy the maid in *Gone With the Wind* but whose career was blighted after she stood out against racism, can be glimpsed (and unmistakably heard) in a one-line role.

Designed by John Stoddart and photographed, like *Witness*, by John Seale, *The Mosquito Coast* always uses its impressive spectacle dramatically, without either *National Geographic* pretentiousness or the look-at-me ostentation of a *Mission*.

Etore Scola's *Macaroni* is a likeable, melancholy little romantic comedy, remarkable only for teaming the considerable talents of Jack Lemmon and Marcello Mastroianni. Lemmon is a businessman who returns to Naples for the first time since GI days in 1946. In the years between he has obliterated from his memory all recollection of the friendships and love of those years. Predictably the American, dried up by the materialist life, rediscovers himself through the reunion with his old Neapolitan friend, broke and sick but still borne up by native romanticism. It is a familiar story, but the two old

masters of comedy do an elegant double act.

Just Between Friends is the first feature produced, written and directed by Allan Burns, co-creator of the Mary Tyler Moore television show. Here Miss Moore is teamed with the more abrasive and pushy Christine Lahti in a story about female bonding. The friendship of the two ladies survives the crisis of the newly-widowed Moore's discovery that her best friend was the mistress of her husband and is the mother-to-be of his posthumous child. The relationships are intriguing, and Lahti is a slick actress and an arresting personality; but the lives and sentiments of the characters have too much of the unreal gloss of television drama.

Alain Delon was once the pretty boy of French cinema; now he is its answer to Charles Bronson. *Cop's Honour* is a nastily violent Gallic version of the revenge melodrama. Delon plays a former policeman who comes out of retirement to avenge his daughter, murdered by a gang of vigilantes. Produced by Delon, the film openly reflects the star's declared views on France's social degeneration and his sympathy for the extreme right.

David Robinson

CONCERT

BBCSO/Wand
Festival Hall/
Radio 3

For BBC Symphony Orchestra members the pleasure of playing to a comfortably full Festival Hall must be quite a novelty. One suspects that it was the perennial pull of Mozart's Symphony No 40 and Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony that did the trick, but it would be nice to think that Günter Wand, 73 last month, is now more of an attraction to British audiences in his own right.

The BBC decreed this to be his official birthday concert, and one is allowed to be self-indulgent when celebrating a birthday. Perhaps that is why Wand — such a model of circumspection in Bruckner and Schubert — visited on Tchaikovsky a plague of small but jolting "effects", all the stranger in that they appeared not to intensify the hysteria of this work (a justifiable approach) but to distance us from Tchaikovsky's frenzied edge of darkness.

Most conductors tamper with the March's tempo, but Wand kept this even-paced and rather dull in texture. The brass-playing was timid; the woodwind solos rarely leapt through the moly. He fiddled, however, with almost everything else. The first movement suddenly spurred as the brass entered: one held one's breath, but just as suddenly the energy had dissipated. The Waltz slowed considerably overall — an effective way of accentuating the claustrophobic sensation created by the throbbing timpani, except that the speed seemed to alter from bar to bar, depending on whether it was wind, brass or strings playing. The finale was odder, with a metrically distorted opening and some raw and random instrumental balances. Wand hardly seemed interested in making any emotional impact with the last few bars. All very intriguing and different, but no way to treat a suicide.

His Mozart was more orthodox and agreeable. Using 60 players for this symphony is not excessive (Salieri used 180); there was a well-defined fullness about the sound, and plenty of bustle about the pace.

Richard Morrison

All in a flash

THEATRE

Madame Bovary
Palace, Watford

lot of inventing to do. What Miss O'Brien has done is to take the external events and flash through the story in two hours, converting a masterpiece of psychological naturalism into a melodramatic romance. I say that with no intention of belittling what the play does achieve as the work of Ireland's greatest living story-teller who has her own claim to the Flaubertian territory, where romantic ecstasy and everyday banality meet.

Barring two audacious excursions off the premises, the piece is set entirely in the Bovary living-room. Emma

comes equipped with a confidante — the servant Felicie — whose loyalty may be strained when the bailiffs start stripping the house but who serves as an indispensable means of revealing her mistress's thoughts.

The action unfolds as if by flashes of lightning: no sooner has Emma declared her marital boredom than young Leon arrives to play piano duets; no sooner is he off the scene than the aristocratic Rodolphe conveniently falls off his horse just outside the front door. This may sound as if the events have been trivialized. But the effect is to present an ever-strengthening sequence of hopes and defeats in which grand emotions are brought tumbling down by an onset of nose-bleeding or the price of a hotel room.

Helen Mirren plays Emma

with the extreme emotional volatility of a creature at once comfortably provided for and dying of starvation. Instinctively coquettish from the start, her performance develops on a simultaneous arc of passion and panic — expressed not only at the major climaxes but in painfully muted scenes as where she pleads for Charles's account-book and then brutally snatches it from him. This is a performance of authentic desperation, never asking for sympathy.

The puzzle of Lou Stein's production is Michael Byrne, who presents the tedious Charles as the tenderest and best-looking man on stage. But the spirit of provincial boredom is amply embodied in David Horovitch's apothecary and John Turdoff as a mildly inoffensive vampire presenting a pack of unpaid bills.

Irving Wardle

The Lady from the Sea
Gate

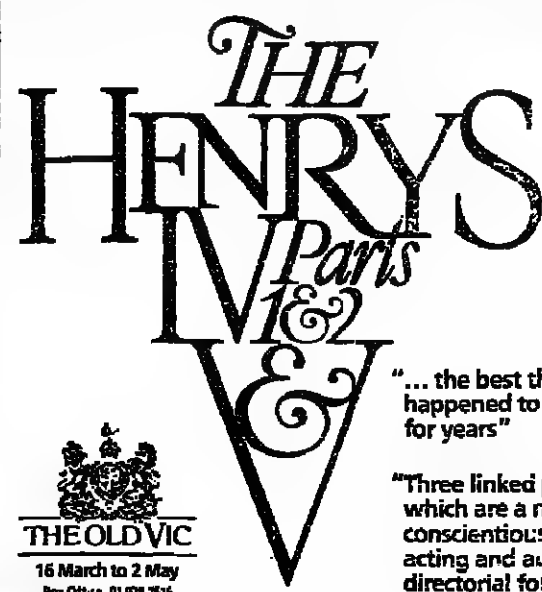
whips the play's five acts past in under two hours. Ellida's obsession with the sea and her mysterious sailor can lose the play in dreamy *longueurs*; but this quick direction emphasizes everyone's readiness to talk about themselves, and makes the anguished scenes between Ellida and her weak husband (Joanna Foster and Andrew Melville) superficial and glib.

Notwithstanding the shortcomings contained in her approach Paddi Taylor directs

her strong company in performances of refreshing charm and comedy in the less crucial scenes. On the small stage the two levels and simple settings (benches and a stool) keep the groupings open, and the only undue restriction comes when four characters are crammed into a punt under the knees of the audience.

Two of this group are the Wangen daughters, teasing creatures far removed from the popular notion of Ibsen's Glim, played by Charlotte Harvey and Anna Mackinn. Their green candour roots the play in sanity. Also worth catching is Ron Meadows's ageing tutor in love.

Jeremy Kingston

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acquires
Everfresh

Park Food Group, the Christmas hamper supplier, is buying Everfresh, the frozen food business, from Guinness for £1.85 million.

Everfresh distributes 650 frozen food product lines in the Midlands and the North-west. It made operating profits of £196,000 in the year to the end of March 1986 on a turnover of £9.8 million. Unaudited accounts for the nine months to the end of December 1986 showed operating profits of £156,000 on turnover of £7.2 million.

Park Food is keen to expand in frozen food distribution and intends to form a new temperature-controlled division. It said Everfresh would form the core of the new division and enhance its buying power, enabling it to improve gross profit margins.

Exchange to
reopen

The Stock Exchange in Edinburgh is to re-open after a gap of more than 15 years. Public demand for share information in the light of widespread privatization is said to be one of the main reasons behind the move.

There will be no trading at the Edinburgh building, which will open in the spring, but it will see the establishment of a centre giving an advice and information service on the work of the Stock Exchange. Scottish Stock Exchange dealings have been concentrated in Glasgow since the Edinburgh Exchange closed.

In tomorrow's nine-page Family Money we examine how a limit on mortgage interest relief to the standard rate of income tax would affect your monthly repayments. Also, hints on end-of-year tax planning, how new proposals on life assurance commissions will affect consumers and the merits of Europe as an investment area. Plus, an update on Business Expansion Scheme opportunities.

Oriflame wins

Oriflame has declared its offer for The Goldsmiths Group unconditional after receiving acceptances for 75.6 per cent in addition to its holding of 13.6 per cent.

Aaronson falls

Aaronson Brothers, the supplier of chipboard and plastic products to the building and DIY markets, experienced a sharp fall in pretax profits in the year to the end of September 1986 from £3.7 million to £2.1 million. Turnover rose 8.9 per cent to £85.3 million. A maintained dividend of 3p was declared, making a total for the year of 4.2p.

Times, page 23

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2208.88 (+12.65)
Dow Jones	2208.88 (+12.65)
Nikkei Dow	19795.08 (-178.79)
Hong Kong	2862.14 (+15.51)
Hang Seng	262.0 (+1.5)
Amsterdam Gen	1533.4 (+20.5)
Sydney AO	1677.8 (-33.6)
Frankfurt	4016.70 (+0.12)
General	416.3 (+2.4)
Paris CAC	542.60 (same)
Zurich SCA Gen	85.80 (+0.19)
London FT-A	1486.2 (+13.4)
FT. Gilt	141.94 (+0.26)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	11%
3-month interbank	11-10% w/e
3-month eligible bills	10% w/e
buying rate	US: 10% w/e
US: 3-month T-bill	7% w/e
Federal Funds	5% w/e
3-month Treasury bill	5.5-5.54%
30-year bonds	100% w/e

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New York	2: \$1.5180
2: DM1.7908	2: DM1.7908
2: Sfr2.2614	2: Sfr2.2614
2: Yfr3.3215	2: Yfr3.3215
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2: Index	2: Index
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Neill report prompts four to quit

Lloyd's men
stand down

By Alison Keeble

Four working members of Lloyd's ruling council have offered to stand down to help speed putting into action the big constitutional changes recommended in Sir Patrick Neill's report two weeks ago.

Lloyd's council has also accepted 11 further recommendations in the report, in addition to the two constitutional changes it agreed to on the day of publication. Sir Patrick made 70 recommendations in all, none of which has been ruled out by Lloyd's.

The resignations will reduce the number of council members, who are working members of the insurance market, from the present 16 to the 12 advocated by Sir Patrick. The two-year transition period previously envisaged by Lloyd's will no longer be necessary.

The four members are Mr Patrick Bird, Mr Richard Bellamy, Mr John Greig and Mr Frank Barber, whose terms of office would normally have expired at the end of 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990 respectively. The search for four new nominated members has yet to begin.

They will replace the working members and must be approved by the Bank of England.

The accepted recommendations cover all six of the

report's constitutional changes including the permanent appointment of the chairman or deputy chairman of the Securities and Investments Board to the council of Lloyd's. Sir Kenneth Berrill, the present SIB chairman and a Lloyd's council member, agreed to put that particular recommendation.

Lloyd's has agreed also to set up a Names' Interests Committee, chaired by a nominated member, with responsibility for investigating non-financial complaints by names against their agents.

The council has instructed five working groups to examine some of the more controversial recommendations. Three new working groups will look at information to members, the underwriting agency agreement including the report's call for a mandatory deficit clause and the abolition of the 'one agent one class of business' rule.

The new Names Interest Committee will study all the recommendations in the complaints and disputes section of the report, including compensation for names whose losses have not resulted from normal underwriting and an ombudsman to investigate names' complaints against Lloyd's.

A sub-group of the Underwriting Agents' Registration

Committee will examine the area of parallel syndicates, which Sir Patrick said should be severely restricted - if not abolished.

The extra work entailed by the report may cost Lloyd's up to £2 million a year on its budget, Mr Alan Lord, the chief executive, said yesterday. The Corporation's running costs are estimated at £12 million this year.

Mr Peter Miller, chairman of Lloyd's, and Mr Lord met Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, on Tuesday to discuss the report. Mr Channon has said in Parliament that Lloyd's has one year to bring its standards of protection for names up to levels guaranteed to other investors under the Financial Services Act.

Mr Lord said also that he hoped there would be an announcement very soon on a settlement to the protracted PCW affair. Lloyd's had hoped to have a settlement in place by the end of last year but the complexity of the issue caused delays.

The earmarking of Lloyd's central fund - £235 million of the £260 million fund has been set aside to cover PCW names' losses - expires at the end of June providing a strong incentive to have a settlement completed by then.

Broker accused of perjury

From Richard Battley, Sydney

The London broker Alexander Laing & Cruickshank had "committed perjury" before a hearing of the Australian National Companies and Securities Commission, the Supreme Court of Victoria was told yesterday.

Mr Douglas Meagher, QC, for NCSC, was replying to an allegation that ALC had been denied natural justice during a private hearing into the purchase of an 8 per cent parcel of shares of Humes Ltd.

The 13.9 million share parcel was bought by ALC on December 2 amid heightened activity in the Humes scrip when more than 14.6 million shares changed hands at prices of up to a record Aus\$4.26.

The NCSC has declared the purchase to be an unacceptable acquisition under Section 60 of the Takeover Code. It is seeking court orders for the shares to be vested to the commission, then sold.

Mr Meagher said ALC had attempted to deny the commission information. The broker had interviewed people in London and had taken statements from them but had refused to supply the commission with that information.

"They sent somebody out from England to spin out a story to the commission and then asked to be given everything in an attempt to stave off a Section 60 declaration," Mr Meagher said.

"They were given an opportunity to appear before the commission and instead tried to sell the shares."

It was "absurd" for ALC's counsel, Mr Dan Horton, QC, to claim the commission had denied the broker natural justice.

"Nothing is to be gained by playing the game my learned friends want to play - which is to put the commission in the dock rather than the conduct of their clients."

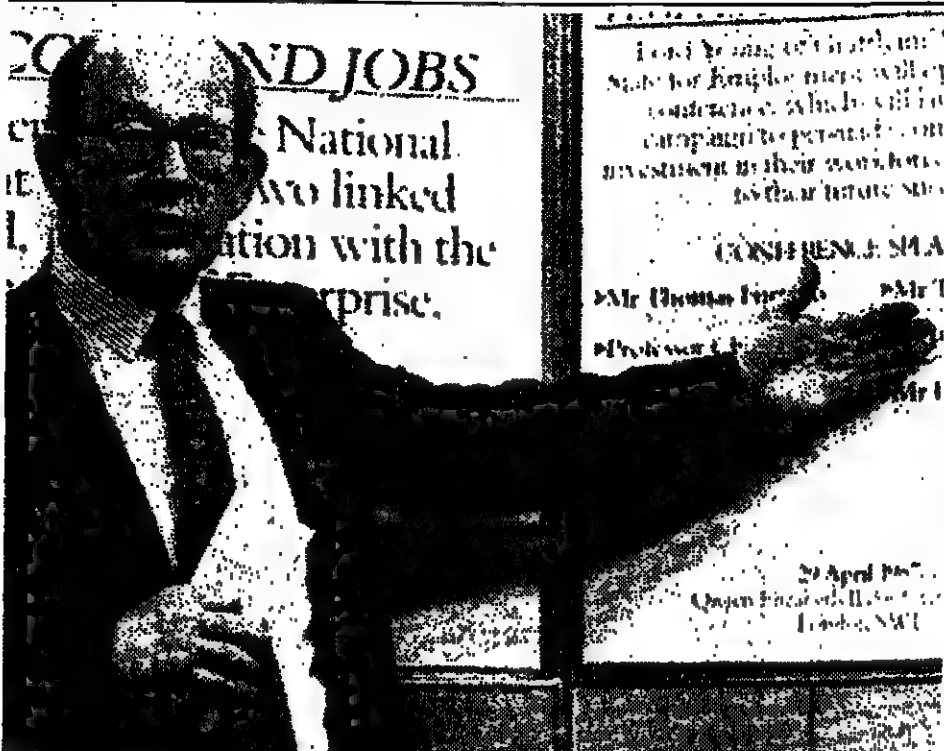
Mr Horton argued that "so gross was the (NCSC's) denial of natural justice that the declaration must be quashed."

The Commission had breached the rules of natural justice by refusing to provide

ALC with exhibits and transcripts relating to share trading, by providing partial copies of the transcript which were misleading and by refusing to allow the broker to cross-examine witnesses.

Mr Horton said the commission also gave ALC no chance to comment on material adverse to its interests - "because they wouldn't tell us what it was" - and required the broker to argue why a Section 60 declaration should not be made without revealing the grounds or relevant parts of the transcript.

ALC is appealing against the declaration, as is Humes' unwelcome bidder, Unity APA.



Back to the future: director-general John Cassels looking forward to the next 25 years

Neddy's
silver
landmarkBy Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

A landmark report comparing management education and development in the leading industrialized countries, including Britain, was promised yesterday to help mark the silver jubilee of the National Economic Development Council (NEDC).

The announcement came from Mr John Cassels, the eighth director-general of the National Economic Development Council (NEDC), when he announced a series of sponsored events to celebrate Neddy's 25 years.

The council, launched as a forum at which government leaders, senior industrialists and trade union leaders could address the big issues of the day, first met on March 7, 1962, under the chairmanship of the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Selwyn Lloyd.

Among those at the first meeting were Lord Robens (then National Coal Board chairman), Dr Richard Beeching (British Transport Commission chairman), Mr George Woodcock (TUC general secretary) and Mr Frank Cousins (Transport and General Workers Union general secretary).

The management report, which compares Japan, West Germany, France, the United States and Britain, will be out in April and has been prepared by Professor Charles Handy of the London Business School.

The first of two silver jubilee conferences will be on March 31 at which the speakers will include Mr Nigel Lawson, the present Chancellor, and Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, will be among the speakers at the second conference.

H&WT decision
day on TV bid

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Australia's great media reshuffle moves closer to resolution today when News Ltd and its Aus\$2.3 billion takeover target, the Herald and Weekly Times group, hold separate board meetings.

News Ltd directors will decide whether to extend the offer for the Melbourne-based media group, due to close on Monday, and the H&WT directors will decide whether to accept any of the offers it received during a 24-hour auction of the group's electronic media.

H&WT held the snap auctions after it had received a Aus\$385 million offer on Wednesday for its broadcast assets from John Fairfax, the Sydney media group. This is \$15 million more than that for which News Ltd had conditionally contracted to sell.

Fairfax, a News Ltd rival, has also made an outright bid for H&WT. Its offer is \$2.5 billion. The H&WT board, however, favours the News Ltd offer.

It is understood that H&WT received 12 offers yesterday but no details have

been disclosed. It is known, though, that Fairfax has filed formal tender documents and has lifted its price for the two television stations in Melbourne and Adelaide, and for the four radio stations.

The failed America's Cup defender, Mr Kevin Parry, is also a potential buyer.

News Ltd, the Australian arm of News Corporation, is the beneficial owner of 64 per cent of H&WT shares. Registration of the shares is subject to the approval of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, which is investigating the legality of the H&WT acquisition. It resumes its hearings this afternoon.

Meanwhile, Fairfax yesterday foreshadowed fresh legal challenges in an attempt to thwart the News Ltd offer. Writs will be filed in the Supreme Courts of South Australia and Queensland, the home states of H&WT associates, Advertiser Newspapers and Queensland Press. Both have accepted the offer from News Ltd for their H&WT holdings.

Strong
demand
for BA
shares

By John Bell, City Editor

The £900 million share sale of British Airways, which closes at 10am today, looks certain to be heavily oversubscribed. Hill Samuel, merchant banking advisers to the issue, said last night they were confident there would be sufficient applications from both institutions and private investors to trigger the clawback provisions of the share sale.

These allow more shares to be made available to private investors if the issue is subscribed three times.

Hill Samuel reported strong interest from both investors in Britain and overseas, and suggested that newly privatized British Airways would boast more than half a million shareholders.

In the "grey" or unofficial market operated by Cleveland Securities, the licensed dealer, British Airways shares were being quoted late yesterday at 82p for sellers and 86p for buyers. This compares with the 65p first instalment of the 125p offer price. The second payment of 60p is due in August.

Prices on the grey market have been firming throughout the week as it became increasingly clear the offer was heading for success.

Accountants Peat Marwick are standing by to vet the expected sackfuls of forms for multiple applications, which will be passed after investigation to the Fraud Squad.

Peat Marwick is enlisting the aid of sophisticated computer technology developed specifically for detecting rings of professionals making multiple applications.

Applications made in the name of nominee companies will be given extra scrutiny.

British Airways last night announced a syndication agreement for a \$2.3 billion aircraft financing facility, believed to be the largest of its kind. The facility, arranged by National Westminster Bank, relates to 16 Boeing 747-436 aircraft with Rolls-Royce engines.

Nottingham Brick
agrees Marley bid

By Our City Staff

Two months after rebuffing an approach from the Steeley Group amid declarations that independence was the best policy, the board of Nottingham Brick yesterday accepted a £40 million offer from Marley, the building materials group.

The deal had been strongly signalled in the stock market on Wednesday when Nottingham Brick shares jumped 26p to 363p. Yesterday, while directors of the two companies were talking terms, the shares, which had opened at 370p, drifted back to 363p, and then pulled ahead again to 369p before the late afternoon confirmation the deal was on.

Terms of the offer are two ordinary Marley shares, plus 100p cash for each Nottingham Brick share. At last night's closing price for Marley of 132.5p, down 3.5p, each Nottingham share is valued at 365p.

The offer by Marley appears to be well above the value which Steeley put on the company in December. Steeley said part of the reason for calling off merger talks had been the sharp rise in Nottingham Brick's price, which had jumped from 235p to 340p within days.

Ahead of last night's confirmation of the Marley offer, Steeley's managing director, Mr Richard Miles, said that "all things would have to be considered". But the immediate lack of action in Nottingham Brick shares suggested the City was not expecting a battle.

Marley yesterday forecast that its profits for the year to the end of last December would bounce back to top the £33 million earned in 1984. In 1985 they had slumped to £19.5 million, or £24.6 million including Thermalite.

Cookson set to raise
£162m in rights issue

By Alexandra Jackson

Cookson Group, the metals and industrial chemicals company, is raising £162.3 million net of expenses in a one-for-four rights issue at 480p. Yesterday's announcement was accompanied by a pretax profits forecast for the year to December 1986 of £92 million (40p of earnings per share) compared to £67.6 million in 1985. The share price closed down 26p at 520p.

The directors intend to recommend a final dividend of 6p which, together with the interim payment of 2.75p, represents an increase for the year of 13 per cent.

Cookson has no immediate plans to make an acquisition. Instead it will initially use the money to reduce borrowing, expand existing businesses

and to invest further in research and development.

However, Mr Fergus Munro, a director of Cookson, said yesterday that a stronger balance sheet would give the group greater flexibility to pursue suitable acquisition opportunities when they presented themselves.

Cookson Group, previously known as Lead Industries, has undergone a remarkable transformation in the last five years. Its progress is reflected in its market capitalization which has risen more than 10 times during that period and is now more than £700 million.

Cookson's principal activities are in manufacturing specialist materials for use in industry.

Times, page 23

Sperrings convenience stores sold

Circle K's £20m buy

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Sperrings, pioneers in Britain of the modern style of convenience store in 1974, has been sold for £20 million to Circle K, the second largest convenience store operator in the United States.

Mr Karl Eller, chairman of Circle K, sees it as a European foothold with France the next likely target. Circle K has about 20 convenience stores in Britain, now being converted to trading under the Circle K banner, and the Sperrings shops will bring the number of outlets to 105.

The aim is to increase the chain to about 500 stores within five years.

The deal makes Circle K, clear market leader in the specialist category of convenience stores although the leading "symbol" grocery chain, Spar, now has more than 1,000 of its franchised outlets in its Eight Till Late format.

Last month, Sperrings announced two area franchising agreements, one covering the West Midlands and the other the North West.

Circle K will experiment in Britain with some of the elements which have been successful in the United States, said Mr Eller.

One possibility is the introduction of cash dispensers through a deal with one or more banks. More sophisticated automatic teller machines opened the possibility

not only of depositing and withdrawing cash, but also of selling airline and theatre tickets, he added.

The Sperrings management, including Mr Tony Sanderson, the managing director, is staying on. The Sperrings chairman, Mr Bob Sperring, will be a consultant to Circle K and a director, but he said the entrepreneurial role he relishes will be "directed to new challenges."

It was he who studied convenience stores in the US and adapted the ideas for the British consumer.

Circle K will raise the temperature in what is already an increasingly competitive sector. There are approaching 3,000 convenience stores in Britain, according to the latest estimates by the Institute of Grocery Distribution. Nearly 200 are linked with petrol forecourts, seven of which are Sperring outlets.

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

Scotch whisky exports highest for four years

Scotch whisky exports last year were the highest for four years, the Scotch Whisky Association announced yesterday. More than 236.1 million litres of pure alcohol was sold abroad, up 4.5 per cent for the year, and the highest figure since 1982. The value rose to £1.07 billion, up 8 per cent over the previous year.

But Mr Ivan Straker, chairman of the association's public affairs committee, said: "It would be premature to talk in terms of recovery until we see evidence of sustained growth over a much longer period." Whisky still had to contend with unfair and discriminatory treatment in most of its markets, he added, and sales volume and foreign exchange earnings were unlikely to increase appreciably until barriers had been removed or reduced.

TV network priced

The French Finance Minister, M. Edouard Balladur (right), set at Fr3 billion the price of a 50 per cent stake in the television network TF1 to be offered to an operating consortium as part of the government's privatization programme. A finance ministry statement said a minimum value of Fr4.5 billion had been set for the network by a special committee set up to monitor the privatizations. M. Balladur set the sale price sharply above the recommended minimum to take into account the value to the operators of gaining control of France's oldest and most widely watched of three state-owned channels.



Weir offshoots win £4.6 million deals

The Weir Group in Glasgow yesterday announced that two of its subsidiaries had been awarded contracts worth £4.6 million. Weir Pumps, the largest company in the Glasgow-based engineering group, is to supply pumping equipment worth over £3.3 million to the UK Water Authorities and one water company.

Weir Westgarth of Wokingham, the desalination and contracting arm of Weir Group, have won three orders totalling about £1.3 million in Gibraltar, Oman and Egypt. This includes an order worth £500,000 for a sea water reverse osmosis plant to provide 100,000 gallons of water a day to the Ministry of Defence facilities at Gibraltar. Two orders worth £1 million each have been placed by Anglian Water and Welsh Water. Other significant contracts have been signed with East Surrey Water Company and Severn Trent Water Authority. All four projects will be handled by Weir's Alcoa plant and the pumps will be manufactured at the Cathcart, Glasgow factory.

No change at Allianz

Munich (AP-Dow Jones) — Herr Wolfgang Schieren, chairman of Allianz, gave a broad hint that the company, profiting from its recent acquisition of Cornhill Insurance and Riminese Adriatica di Sicurtà will maintain an unchanged dividend of DM12 per share for 1986. "I don't like to go to the board and tell them that we have to cut the dividend," Herr Schieren said at a press conference.

Hodgson buys tenth business

Hodgson Holdings, the financial director, is buying J Steadman & Sons of Dorchester, South Yorkshire, for £395,000 cash. It is the tenth business Hodgson has acquired since it came to the unlisted securities market last June. Steadman will add about 375 funeralists to the group's total. On an annualized basis, Hodgson will have increased its number of funeralists by 53 per cent since the flotation.

UK firms aim to start Soviet joint ventures

Davos, Switzerland (AP-Dow Jones) — About 100 foreign companies have made joint-venture proposals to the Soviet Union since new trade laws were implemented last month, according to Mr Ivan Ivanov, deputy chairman of the State Commission for Foreign Economic Relations. Mr Ivanov told the annual World Economic Forum that the proposals came from Britain, the United States, Japan, India, France, Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

The new Soviet laws allow foreign companies to start joint ventures with domestic concerns and to repatriate 56 per cent of their earnings in hard currency.

STOCK MARKET

Glaxo follows ICI with 14p jump on profits upgrading

By Michael Clark

Drugs remain very much in vogue on the stock market this week. Wednesday's re-rating for ICI, with its big pharmaceutical interests, was followed by a similar treatment for its rival, Glaxo, yesterday.

Shares of Glaxo came within a whisker of their all-time high yesterday with a rise of 14p to £13.63 following a big upgrading of profits by I. Messel, the broker.

Ms Jo Walton, pharmaceutical analyst with Messel, has raised her estimate of pretax profits for the current year from £780 million to £845 million and reckons the shares are overdue for a re-rating.

Ms Walton says sales of Zantac, the group's anti-ulcer drug, are running much higher in the US than was originally anticipated. She estimates they are 50 per cent higher than this time last year in response to its approval for long-term use. "This has boosted incremental sales and provides stronger margins", Ms Walton said.

Messel is looking for pretax profits from Glaxo of more than £1 billion next year, which appears to be in the middle range of estimates.

There is a whole new market out there in the US for long-term drugs and Glaxo is trading a 30 per cent discount to comparable American drug producers", she added.

The rest of the equity market continued to scale new heights with the FT index of top 30 shares rising 13.4 to a record 1,486.2. The broader-based FT-SE 100 rose 19.4 to a new peak of 1,866.1.

Government securities closed below their best level of the day with rises ranging to 2 1/2p, after 2 1/2p.

Tesco, the high street food retailer, enjoyed a 9p rise to 434p — for a two-day lead of 12p — and now stands just 8p below its high for the year. But several leading brokers are taking the view that the shares have been left behind by the rest of the market and have only just started going through the process of catching up. "It was a screaming buy. It has certainly been left behind", was the comment of one dealer yesterday.

The group's financial year comes to an end later this month with analysts looking for pretax profits to rise from £122.9 million to a figure of £170 million, including £10 million of property profits.

Greenwell Montagu, the broker, is reckoned to have just upgraded its estimate for next year to more than £200 million and another broker is scheduled to visit the company next week.

The shares are currently trading on a prospective P/E of 15.8 — just a small premium over the average sector rating of 14.

Rival Kwik Save Discount was another firm market, climbing 3p to 265p amid whispers that Sainsbury's had upgraded its estimates.

Fitch Lovell showed signs of recovery, firming 10p to 275p on hopes of a bid soon. Once again Albert Fisher, the fresh fruit and vegetable distributor

Whitehead, the brewer, rose 4p to 289p after lunch with a firm of brokers. The shares have stood up well to several downgrades, which have trimmed estimates from £160 million to £156 million as a result of problems in North America and last month's bad weather.

run by Mr Tony Miller, has been named as a possible suitor. The story was also doing the rounds last year, but little came of it. Albert Fisher has enjoyed a strong growth record since Mr Miller took over in 1982 and is believed to be looking round for suitable acquisitions. Fisher closed 1p dearer at 215p.

Tate & Lyle, the Mr Cube sugar giant, came within a whisker of its year's high with a rise of 6p to 679p after a

lunch at the offices of Chase Manhattan Securities, the broker. Tate, still awaiting the outcome of the Monopolies Commission inquiry into its proposed bid for S&W Berisford, the commodity trader and food group, was apparently in bullish mood.

Acates & Hutchison, Britain's second biggest producer of edible oils after Unilever, advanced 3p to 301p on talk of a lunch in the City. The group came to market last summer after an offer for sale of 4.68 million shares at 160p, valuing it at £48 million. The group has since enjoyed strong institutional support and last month pleased the market by easily beating its profits forecast of £6.7 million. The market is looking for more than £9 million in the current year.

The alarm bells have been ringing at Jacksons Bourne End, the manufacturer of expanded polystyrene products and insulates, after learning that most of its biggest shareholders

— accounting for 71 per cent of the company's equity — had been approached by a mystery bidder. The shares, which have been a strong market over the past couple of days, responded to the news with a leap of 28p to 393p. The company says that no definitive proposals have been put forward for consideration, so it is too early to say whether these approaches will be conclusive. The group's biggest shareholders include

Index Investments with 30.03 per cent, Douglas Bank (Nominees) with 30.01 per cent and Terrell SA 6.85 per cent.

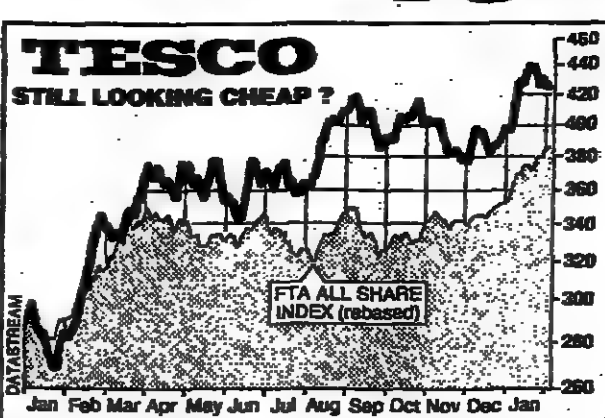
In stores, Dixons firmed another 3p to 343p. The market is convinced the group is planning a large US acquisition and the names of Circuit City, an electrical retailer, and Cyclops, a metals stockholder, continue to be bandied around. Dealers claim Dixons is now well positioned to make a bid after its unsuccessful £1.9 billion tussle with Woolworth last year.

But Burton Group retreated 3p to 278p on renewed fears that the Department of Trade and Industry is considering an investigation into the group's crumpled £466 million bid for Debenhams in 1985.

The mail order retailers enjoyed selective support. Freemans climbed 12p to 417p, Rappin Stores 3p to 203p and Great Universal Stores 'A' 3p to £11.83.

FRANKFURT: A last-minute buying spree by domestic institutions helped share prices on to close mostly higher in hectic trading yesterday and allowed the West German market to pause in its New Year downward slide, brokers said.

The Commerzbank index, compiled at mid-day when issues were still broadly down, lost 33.6 points to close at



Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan

1677.6, its lowest since October, 22, 1985, when the index stood at 1674.9.

Banking stocks recovered some of their earlier losses but still ended below Wednesday's prices. Deutsche Bank fell DM10 to DM683.50. Commerzbank eased DM2.50 to DM267.50 and Bayerische Vereinsbank fell DM6 to DM425. Dresdner Bank edged up 80 pfennigs to DM338.80.

HONG KONG: Despite afternoon profit-taking, share prices surged to new highs in heavy trading. The market's gain, its fourth in a row, puts the index at a record for the second consecutive day and drove many share prices to their best levels. Brokers said systematic buying of selected blue-chip shares and some second-time issues is behind the rally.

Ward White, which recently acquired LCP Holdings, fell 12p to 316p yesterday after Sainsbury's Vickers, the broker, downgraded its estimates from £68 million to £62 million. This follows a similar downgrading by rival James Capel, which is now looking for only £38 million, excluding property profits.

The Hang Seng index rose 15.51 to 2,632.14.

TOKYO: Prices slid on heavy volume, as afternoon profit taking in financial, pharmaceutical and domestic demand issues dissolved an early morning advance. Traders said the Nikkei Dow Jones index touched a high of more than 20,000 in the first hour of trading but slipped on the profit-taking. It closed at 19,795.08.

SYDNEY: There were further gains, with advances over most sections of the market. A broker said a recent decline in Australian short-term interest rates and a rally in the local currency after its drop last month has lifted overseas investor confidence in the market. In addition, the strength of European currencies against the Australian dollar has brought greater interest from Europe. All Ordinaries index: 1,533.1 (1,513.0).

SINGAPORE: Prices closed little changed although volume remained heavy. Brokers said that hopes of pushing on with the rally, which began last week, have all but petered out. Malaysian shares continued to attract most attention. Straits Times industrial index: 971.26 (972.97).

WALL STREET

'Hectic' trading sends Dow above 2,200

New York (AP-Dow Jones) — Share prices were broadly higher in hectic trading. They pulled back most of their opening-bell gains after a brief dip.

The opening-bell buying "was the worst I've seen in this whole market," said Mr Tom Gallagher, head of capital commitment at Oppenheimer & Co., "people just had to own stocks and didn't care what they paid for them."

The Dow Jones industrial average was up about 13 points at the 2,204 level and the blue chip index cleared

2,200 shortly after trading began, then settled below that level for an hour before resuming its advance.

A number of other widely followed market indicators are doing comparatively better than the blue chip average. Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was about two points and the New York Stock Exchange composite index was ahead more than a point.

Advancing shares lead declines by better than three to one on the big board, where about 86 million shares were traded.

Vaux stake 'is investment'

Mr Paul Nicholson, chairman of Vaux, the Sunderland brewing group, told the annual meeting yesterday that his board was unanimously opposed to a takeover by Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, which has declared a 5 per cent stake. He said he understood the stake was a trade investment.

Mr Ian Gibson, deputy managing director Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK), told a Commons select committee that, of the 100,000 cars to be

Nissan beats export target

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Nissan's Sunderland car plant will make its first exports since production started last July, when it begins building Bluebird models for the Irish Republic next month.

The plan to produce up to 150 cars a month for the republic is one year ahead of the company's original target. Next year, Sunderland will start exports to the Continent and these will account for 35 per cent of the output by 1989.

Mr Ian Gibson, deputy managing director Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK), told a Commons select committee that, of the 100,000 cars to be

produced by 1991, 85 per cent of the parts will come from within the EEC. Overall the local EEC content will be at least 80 per cent, as agreed with the Government. The only parts certain to continue to come from Japan are the transmission, central floorpan pressing and some brake parts.

Mr Gibson said later: "Sunderland's plans for local sourcing were much more aggressive than Nissan's."

"This proved fortunate for the Japanese parent company as the yen had strengthened sharply against the pound."

"For Nissan, there is an

extra benefit, our profitability will be a little better, but a lot better than if Nissan had taken cars out of its Japanese plants."

Mr Gibson went on: "Next year we will reach more than 60 per cent local content and for the first time, our cars will count as British-made."

In 1987, the suspension, drivshafts, wiring harness, lamps, starter motor, radiator, interior trim and some minor body pressings will switch from Japanese to European supply. The planned press shop will be in operation at Sunderland by late summer next year.

COMPANY NEWS

BRITISH PETROLEUM

Vista Chemical Company has completed its acquisition of the American polyvinyl chloride compound business of BP. This includes Vista's flexible PVC compound capacity, increasing the company's total compound capacity, including flexible and rigid compounds and dryblends, to more than 300,000 pounds a weight. Vista has also finalized a long-term agreement with BP to produce PVC compounds for Vista's westcoast customers on a dedicated compound line at the Vista, California, facilities.

TOPS ESTATES: The company has exchanged contracts for the purchase of freehold shops at the town square, Bedford, Essex, for £17m, with rents of £1.25m per annum. The purchase price is to be paid in cash through the company's own resources assisted by bank facilities. The investment encompasses most of the town square, comprising more than 250,000 sq ft of shopping area.

VICTOR PRODUCTS: Results for six months to October 31 last figs in £000. Pretax profit of 348 (516) on turnover of 10,328 (9,580), tax 348 (516).

MEAT TRADE SUPPLIES: Figures for the half year to October 3, last, (figs in pounds). Pretax profit of 116,808 (70,702) on turnover 3,433,339 (3,631,515). Profit attributed to earnings of 116,808 (70,702) less interest payable 15 (7), tax 140 (90), earnings per share 5.34p (3.39p) and an interim dividend of 1.2p (nil).

GIBSON LYONS GROUP: The company is negotiating the acquisition of the National Printing Ink company, a manufacturer and distributor of lithographic printing inks and specialized screen inks.

PERSONAL COMPUTERS: ERS: Results for six months to October 3, last, (figs in £000). Pretax profit of 400 (24) on increased turnover of 415 (252). Net interest payable 15 (7), tax 140 (90), earnings per share 5.34p (3.39p) and an interim dividend of 1.2p (nil).

CATER ALLEN GILT EDGED FUND: A fourth interim dividend of 35p per participating share is payable from March 31.

ADAM LEISURE

Mr R. G. Cleaver, RFI Stafford and AF Langlands are appointed directors and Mr Dipre is made the new chairman, replacing Mr CA Rycroft who resigns. An agreement between Mr Dipre and Mr Rycroft relating to the purchase of 18,300 ordinary shares (73.2% of Adam's existing ordinary shares) by Mr Dipre has been completed and will become unconditional in all respects when permission to deal becomes effective. The offer will remain open for acceptance until 3pm on February 18.

LONDON AND ST LAWRENCE INVESTMENT COMPANY

The asset value of the 5p ordinary shares was 107.95p at 31/1/87.

COLES MYER

The company's 353.5 million ordinary shares of Aus\$0.50 each have been admitted to the official list on the London Stock Exchange. Dealings in ordinary shares are expected to begin on February 5. Coles Myer is a diversified owner and operator of retail stores and has about 20 per cent of total retail sales in Australia, making it that country's largest retailer with sales of over Aus\$10.4 (£4.54) billion for the year ended July 27, 1986. Consolidated profit before tax and extraordinary items for the year was Aus\$314 (£137) million.

WELSH INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT TRUST

Results for the six months ended 5/10/86. Profit before tax and extraordinary items was £31,427 (£6,017). Tax £9,113 (£3,192) and a debt of £45,000 (nil) which is the cost incurred in obtaining a listing on the Stock Exchange. Earnings per share 1.54p (0.06p), net average value per share at 5/10/86 was £1.91 (£1.69 at 4/7/86). No interim (nil). In April of this year the company intends to apply to become an authorized investment trust. The board continues to seek investments in emerging businesses which require either venture or development capital.

Bowring

Results for the year ended 31st December, 1986

(Unaudited)

	1986	1985
Operating Revenue	139.2	136.9
Operating Expenses	(108.7)	(92.0)
Operating Profit	50.5	44.9
Other Income	5.1	2.4
Profit before tax	55.6	47.3
Provision for UK tax	(22.0)	(21.3)
Profit after tax	£33.6	£26.0

Operating Revenue has increased by 16%.

Profit before tax has increased by 18%.

The above figures do not constitute full group accounts for the Bowring Group and have been adjusted to comply with generally accepted accounting practices in the United States. Earnings of companies which were sold during 1986 together with other items which are not relevant to operating performance have been excluded. The 1986 comparative figures have been restated onto a basis consistent with that used for reporting the results of 1986.

The full financial statements for the year ended 31st December 1986 of C. T. Bowring & Co. Limited have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and the report of the auditors thereon was unqualified. The full financial statements for the year ended 31st December 1985 have not been reported upon by the auditors and have not yet been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Copies of the full announcement may be obtained from the Secretary, C. T. Bowring & Co. Ltd., The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BE.

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Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
Adam & Company	11.00%
BCCI	11.00%
Chibank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Crds.	11.00%
Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co.	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Chibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

Minister confirms no North Sea curb

New York (AP-Dow Jones) — Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Energy, has reaffirmed British commitment to free trade and oil production policies in the North Sea.

In a Press briefing before his keynote speech at an oil industry dinner in New York, he added that Britain would not attempt to curb North Sea production, despite Norway's decision to curb output by 7 per cent in response to a call from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to help in stabilizing oil prices.

"We do not interfere in marketing of oil," the minister said.

"We have resolved... decided not to put on production controls. Such controls, he said, would probably be a 'disincentive' to new investment in North Sea offshore oil and gas development.

Mr Buchanan-Smith said: "Successive governments have said they would leave it to the industry to make their own decisions."

"The hallmark of our policy is to let companies make their own commercial decisions on production levels. I believe this has been crucial to our success."

A deal which could knock the price of North Sea oil has been announced between four American energy companies and Saudi Arabia.

Exxon (owner of Esso), Mobil, Texaco and Shell agreed to buy oil long-term from the Saudis at the target prices set by Opec last year.

Until now, the absence of any agreement by a leading oil company to buy at the Opec fixed price has cast doubts on the viability of its price support arrangements.

This has also helped North Sea prices because British oil has been seen as a possible alternative source of supply.

But the deal casts doubts on the long-term strength of the already-soft North Sea price. Brent crude for March delivery was at \$17.95 dollars a barrel yesterday, up 20 cents on Wednesday.

Royal talks

The Prince of Wales will attend a meeting at Halifax today of Business in the Community, a group of representatives from about 230 companies, to discuss ways of regenerating industry, boosting tourism and improving the environment at Calderdale.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Miller's tale

There are still gentlemen at Lloyd's — at least four. Their decision to resign from the Council will, at one blow, bring the number of "working" members down to the 12 recommended in the Neill report. Nobler yet they have relieved pressure on Peter Miller, the chairman of Lloyd's, to make "yet another bloody sacrifice for Lloyd's" — leaving the council himself to ease the transition from 16 working members to 12. Miller, a broker who brought business acumen to Lloyd's when it was desperately needed, has been a council member since 1982. He will probably now continue for the remaining two years of his council stint during which he and all who may come after him will pray that automatic knighthoods conferred on Lloyd's chairmen before the great Lime Street scandals will be resumed. While the regal sword still hangs in the balance, Miller has a ticklish decision to make. Already the longest serving (four years) Lloyd's chairman since the 1939-45 war, should he hanker to stay on as chairman? Probably not. Murray Lawrence, an underwriter and the man most likely to succeed, has been bridesmaid for five years: there would be ructions in church if Miller did not throw him the bouquet in November.

Who do you believe? Word in the stock market is that Saatchi & Saatchi, the Conservatives' advertising agency, has booked all available billboard space for the months of May and June. The rumour is so strong that it pushed Saatchi shares 10p higher yesterday. But the Saatchis say they don't know anything about it. They would, wouldn't they?



"That's one bank statement I'm looking forward to..."

Cloud nine

Next time you travel on a British Airways flight it might be a good idea to pass a map up to the captain, clearly marked with your intended destination. Two weeks ago the staff at its share information office in Liverpool responded to a request for a prospectus from a potential shareholder in Uist, in the Outer Hebrides, with a letter saying, regrettably, that they "could not send information concerning the share opportunity to people who are resident outside the UK." The error was understandable given the fact that all addresses on the islands comprise a British Services Post Office number. But now I hear that applicants from the Isle of Wight have received similar letters. Apparently a BA employee took the initials IOW to mean the state of Iowa in the US.

Uniformity is the name of the game at Securicor Group's City Messenger Service subsidiary. Its young messengers are supplied with smart light grey double-breasted suits. Promotion is rewarded with a different coloured silk breast pocket handkerchief. It's a maroon one if you reach the top of the ladder.

Scrim scrum

The five-strong band of analysts who have moved from Scrimgeour Vickers to rival broking firm Smith Newcourt during the past couple of months must be powerful men indeed. Their dislike of the traditional "morning meeting" which put them under a moral obligation to disclose their best tips to the entire firm — before they had time to tell their favoured clients — has led to its abolition. "We joined in November and the meetings were stopped about a week and a half later," says Michael Styles, who joined with his fellow electrical team members Keith Sykes and Michael Sperring. "We didn't have them at Scrimgeour and we don't feel the need for these meetings — if we want to tell a salesman something we'd rather tell him personally." Last month the Scrimgeour engineering team, comprising Bob Bucknell and Ed Wright, also joined Smiths. Ironically, I hear that Scrimgeour has now re-introduced a morning meeting for all staff.

Carol Leonard

Telecom's ill wind makes fibres hum at Mercury

It's an ill wind, so they say, and for Mercury Communications the strike by British Telecom's engineers has been well-timed.

According to Mr Gordon Owen, managing director of Mercury, "it has raised the level of inquiries quite significantly, even dramatically, though it is much more good news in the longer than the shorter term."

Public awareness of Mercury as Britain's alternative telecommunications carrier has been boosted just as two big initiatives are to be launched. Next month will see the start of test marketing of Mercury's services to residential telephone owners and, at the other end of the customer scale, the first Centrex exchange will be inaugurated, enabling large users to lease a unit of a main exchange — and thus do without large in-house switchboards or PABXs.

The residential campaign has already made a tentative start. So far about 2,000 shareholders in Cable and Wireless, the parent company, have become subscribers. The pilot scheme starts properly in about six weeks when selected homes in two towns on the northern side of Mercury's network will be offered the chance to buy a Mercury telephone. This gives the option of routing a trunk call through Mercury's optical fibre network rather than over British Telecom lines.

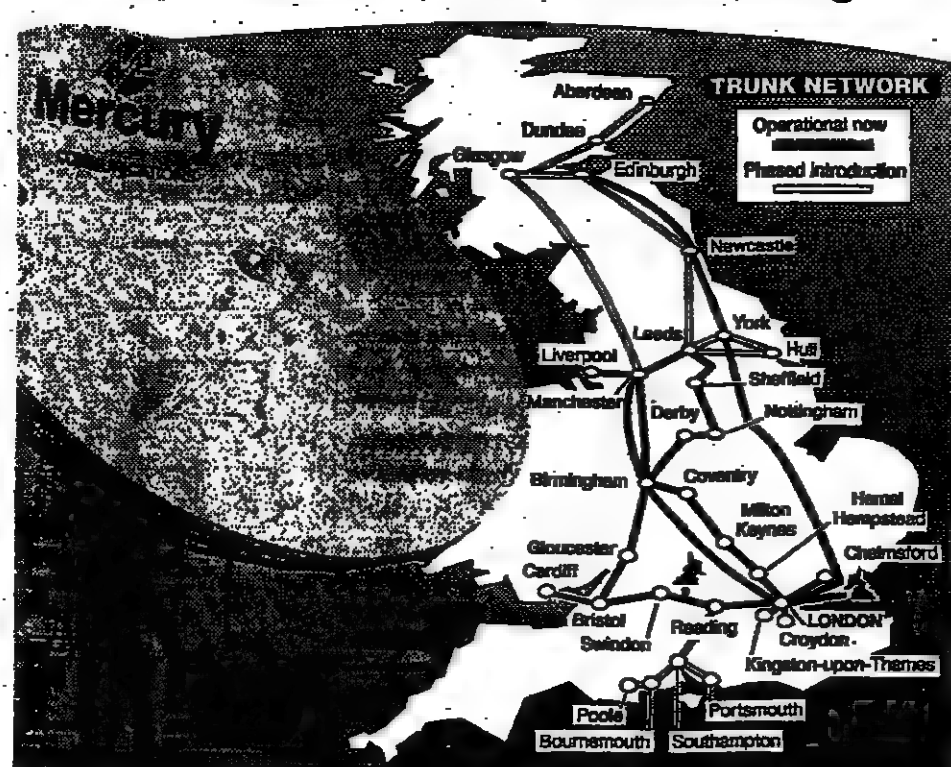
Given the call charge structure, the £7.50 annual fee, and the £37 cost of the telephone, it is a service that will only make economic sense for heavy telephone users and lines carrying a high proportion of long-distance traffic. Assuming the pilot schemes are successful, a national sales drive will start later in the year and Mr Owen estimates that Mercury could have more than 100,000 residential customers by the end of 1987.

A Mercury telephone in your living room could become this year's yuppie status symbol, though you will have to live within about 25 miles of the network.

The Centrex service — an abbreviation of central exchange — is aimed at a very different market. The service, though well known abroad, is new to Britain and enables the switching functions of a PABX to be carried out at a central Mercury-operated exchange rather than in-house.

"It can be used for all sorts of people," said Mr Owen, who has already signed up at least one customer.

Mercury's first Centrex switch, bought from Northern Telecom and with a capacity



of about 10,000 lines, has been installed on the western side of the City of London and will start working in March. For a small but growing business, leasing part of the Centrex switch, avoids buying an expensive PABX which could soon have to be replaced.

Similarly, companies in temporary accommodation would not want to install a switchboard only to leave it behind when they moved on. Very large organizations, with say 500 lines, could find it cheaper to lease through Centrex, while institutions housed across a number of office buildings can avoid buying several PABXs. By renting more or fewer lines at the Centrex, there is considerable flexibility. British Telecom also hopes to introduce a Centrex system this year.

Mr Owen likens the Centrex market to the rented television market. For some it will always be more economical and practical to buy a television. But for those with changing needs or who want to keep up with technical improvements, renting is the answer. Those who suffer in this case, however, will be the PABX manufacturers.

While Mercury can boast more than 1,000 business customers and an exponential growth in its telecommunications traffic, it is not, however, having everything its own way. It has international links to the US and the Far East but

breaking into continental Europe is proving difficult. The European national tele-

communications carriers — all of them monopolies at the moment — will not accept traffic directly from Mercury and will deal only with British Telecom. Mr Owen describes the CEP, a loose group of European postal and telecommunications operators, as the "most tightly closed book in telecoms in the world".

At the moment, Mercury passes its European traffic on to British Telecom which transmits it to Europe. Under the interconnection agreement between the two companies, Mercury must pay British Telecom almost the same rates as a subscriber would pay.

Because the European carriers work only with British Telecom, all the return traffic from Europe is fed back into the British Telecom network. This means British Telecom receives all the reciprocal payments.

Mercury is trying to persuade the Office of Telecommunications that unless it wins direct access to Europe, the interconnection charges paid to British Telecom should be reduced. It is also looking at the scope for taking action under the Treaty of Rome, claiming that Europe is denying customers the opportunity for Mercury to cut charges.

About 40 per cent of the international traffic leaving Britain goes to Europe. Mr Owen said: "All this is caused by international agreements which technology could bypass. Technically, I can send all my European traffic via the

US, Canada and Australia and they would never know I was doing it." But Mercury does not break the rules.

"To those critics who say we are a cream-skimming operation, this is a perfect example of how we are stymied," Mr Owen added.

Cream-skimming is the charge laid at Mercury's door by the Labour Party. Its policy is to take British Telecom back into public ownership and to nationalize and integrate Mercury.

Publicly, Mercury does not give much credence to this threat. It believes that by the time Parliament has sanctioned the necessary changes in the law, Mercury's success will be its best defence. If Mercury has proved the benefits of breaking a monopolistic system, then there should be a large lobby of customers — including a merry band of residential users — against its demise.

In any case, an argument can be made for letting Mercury continue to compete against a state-owned British Telecom.

The engineers' dispute has made many businesses appreciate the attractions of having an alternative telecommunications supplier. There is a Clear Alternative says the advertisement and this has made sense to more people recently. Mercury sells on both price and quality. Less well publicized so far has been its non-unionized workforce.

Teresa Poole
Business Correspondent

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

A Bank investigation may not be enough

The Bank of England's decision to investigate Lloyds Bank's abortive bid for Standard Chartered Bank is correct; made at Standard's invitation, unavoidable in the current feverish climate. However, it may not be enough if all the answers, for good or ill, are to be found.

Bank inspectors are not entirely without teeth. Under the 1979 Banking Act, they can oblige bankers to give evidence under pain of fines of up to a modest (in the City salary scale) £1,000, or the infinitely more painful two years in prison.

But their scope is strictly limited. They can only interview bankers themselves or agents — such as solicitors, auditors and stockbrokers — who have contracts to act for the bank in question.

In Standard's case, this may well be insufficient and a wider investigation is probably essential. Not least in Standard's own interests. It would require a close examination of share dealings during the bid. This can be done only by interviewing stockbrokers, notably Cazenove, who acted for Standard's "white squires". This the Bank inspectors cannot do because Cazenove had no contract with Standard.

A satisfactory inquiry needs the involvement of the Department of Trade and Industry. The DTI, however, says that it cannot act without reasonable proof that wrongdoing took place,

which it does not have. It is, therefore, down to the Takeover Panel to investigate where the Bank cannot and produce the evidence, if it exists, to generate a full DTI inquiry.

The Lloyds-Standard issue highlights the peculiarly complex problems raised by contested bank takeovers. In the case of an industrial company like Guinness, it is fairly easy to identify an abnormal payment or arrangement when one is uncovered. With a bank it is not.

It would be unreasonable to insist that a bank should freeze all lines of credit to any customers which it suspects may use the money to buy its shares during a bid. In Standard's case, this would have meant cutting off the £1 billion credit facility open to the Australian financier, Mr Robert Holmes à Court, as well as existing lines to the National Bank of Brunei. It is equally difficult to insist that a bank should know in advance exactly how a customer intends to use a loan. In the interbank market particularly, where deposits worth millions of pounds are bought and sold over the telephone in seconds this is just not practicable.

When facing complications like these, it is easy to see why the Bank of England wince at the idea of contested bank bids. It has few powers to prevent a contested bid — and fewer now that the Governor's eyebrows are not held in the esteem they once were.

Scandals and votes

The recent catalogue of horrors known by the cover as City Scandals will surely embarrass the Government in the run-up to the election if it is turned into a court room movie, with more titillating revelations, and it proves to be only the first issue of an extended partwork.

But keeping its fingers crossed and being aware of the importance of judicious judicial delay, the Government and its trusty Bank of England have managed to switch to the offensive on City issues from what was a vulnerable, defensive position. Luck and Sir Owen Green have also played their part — to such good effect that even the seemingly ill-starred Paul Channon has been able to emerge from behind the arras of his Guinness family ties to defend his department's response as rapid, determined and effective. The new Financial Services Act guaranteed that the watchdogs would have teeth. Under the Great Puritan himself, the City would be kept clean.

Seeing growing criticism from its own ranks of the much-trumpeted principle of self-regulation, the Government has started to emphasize the "strong statu-

tory framework" behind its regulatory plans (it might soon be renamed "a semi-statutory system"). And who needs a Securities and Exchange Commission? Our system is better and tougher. Wrongdoers can expect no mercy from our "draconian" inspectors and there's no Fifth Amendment to hide behind.

The pivotal point for government self-confidence was January 21 when, after much exhortation, BTR withdrew its controversial £1.1 billion bid for Pilkington, defusing the Commons debate a few hours later on Paul Channon's handling of City scandals and related competition policy. Zircon is now focusing MPs' attention on higher, more easily understood things.

While it is possible that the tide may have turned in the Tories' favour, City waters run treacherously deep. Moreover, the conduct of takeover bids is not the only issue: the public has been made aware of insider dealing and the gulf between the mega-salaries of the City and the rewards of the other 99.9 per cent outside. The populace may have to be given severed heads on poles before rage and cynicism fall to a safe level.

TEMPUS

Cookson is advancing along the rights lines

Being opportunistic is not a bad thing if you put your advantage to good use. Although Cookson has no immediate home for its newly-won cash, save to reduce gearing by two-thirds, its record suggests the money will not be wasted. Profits have increased more than eightfold between 1982 and 1986.

Most of the profits advance has come from organic growth, but acquisitions, such as Alpha Metals, Frank Horsell and the 50 per cent interest in Tioxide, have been notable contributors. Full benefits from more recent acquisitions have still to be fully enjoyed.

Buoyed by the rights proceeds, Cookson aims to continue spending on research and development for new products, to invest in existing businesses and to make strategic acquisitions.

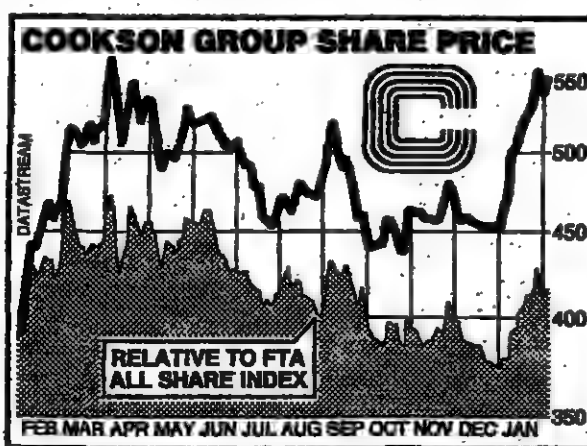
There is, however, unlikely to be much of a change in the mix of Cookson's business. Metals account for 40 per cent of turnover, chemicals 35 per cent and ceramics 20 per cent. The inclusion of higher margin profits from Tioxide, however, makes the chemicals division a more significant contributor to profits.

Signs of improvement in the United States, where the depressed market for printed circuit boards had caused problems, have helped push the shares ahead recently.

The profit forecast for the year to December 1986 of £92 million (eps 40p) is in line with expectations. For the year to the end of December 1987, taking account of the rights issue, £125 million (47.5p) looks achievable. Over the last few months, investors have begun to pay more attention to Cookson. There is little in yesterday's news to dampen their enthusiasm.

Pict Petroleum

Pict Petroleum, the Edinburgh independent oil and gas exploration company, has arranged a financing deal with the US oil company



Amerada Hess which includes the provision of £15 million of finance for Pict's 3.75 per cent interest in the Rob Roy and Ivanhoe oil fields in the North Sea without recourse to Pict.

As part of the deal, Amerada is to purchase £3.6 million worth of shares in Pict at 36p a share, giving it a 42.4 per cent interest. In return for arranging the North Sea financing, Amerada will be able to increase its shareholding to 48.5 per cent for £140,000.

The balance of Pict's cash requirements are being met by a three-for-five rights issue at 36p to raise £1.83p, providing Pict with a total of £5.43 million in immediate cash.

An £850,000 loan from Amerada Hess, borrowed to help with its costs so far, is to be rolled over.

Aaronson Bros

For a business in which it is all-important to source raw materials cheaply and protect one's position against the ravages of imports, Aaronson Brothers did not cover itself with glory last year.

Profits, which were depressed in the first half, failed to show any significant recovery by the year-end, resulting in a 43 per cent slump in pretax profits.

The main reason given for the shortfall was a 40 per cent increase in raw material costs. These could not be passed on to a market already

flooded with imports from Europe.

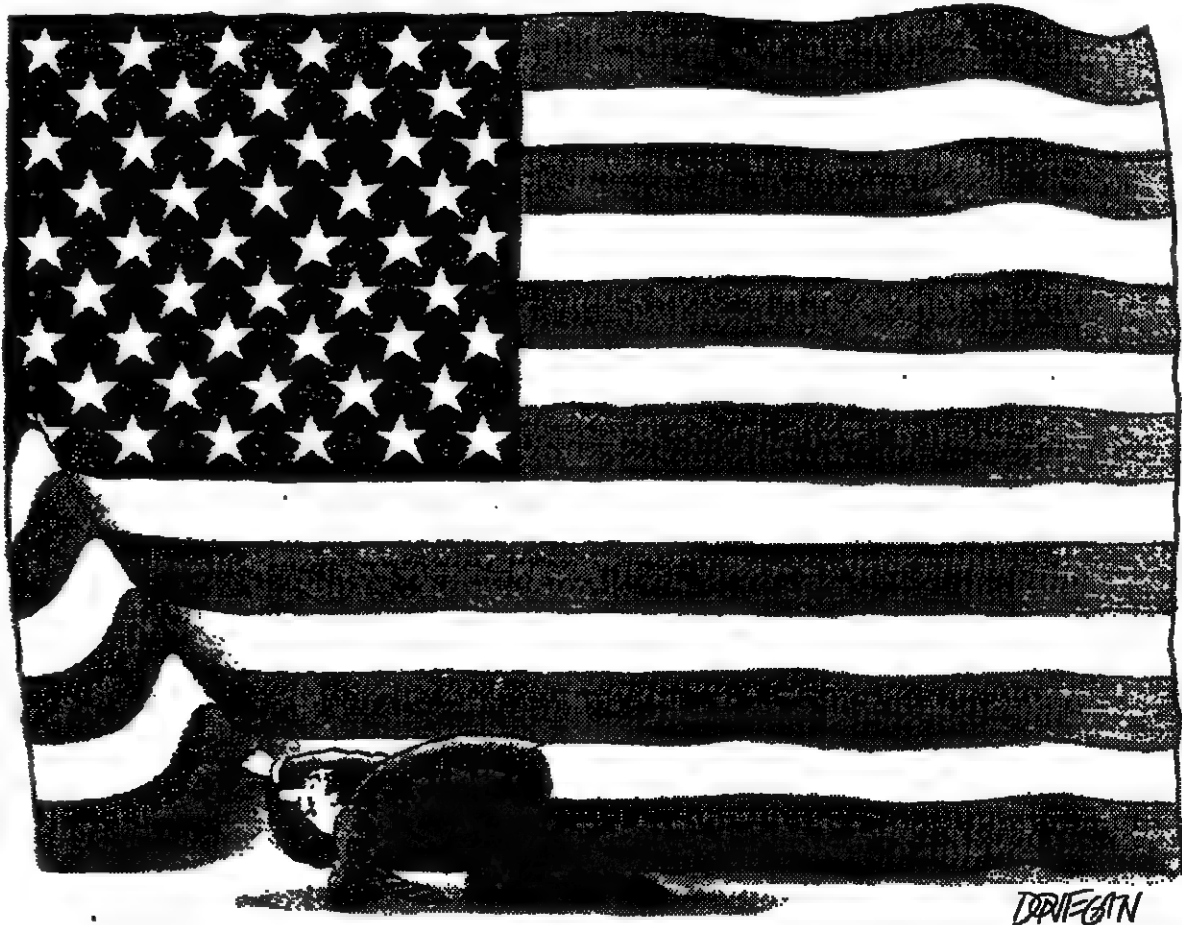
Apparently the situation has improved since the year-end. Volumes are up by 10 per cent so far this year and price increases of 6 per cent have been secured. Margins are expected to return to previous levels.

The business has been moving into the higher margin building and do-it-yourself markets. These consumer-related areas account for approximately 50 per cent of the group, but plastics — around 15 per cent of turnover — is the most exciting growth area.

Aaronson recognizes that many of its markets are fashion driven. Close relationships are being forged with the major players in the DIY market. Hopefully this will not lead to margin pressure.

Although the potential of Aaronson's business has been recognized for some time, its results have not done it justice. However, the restructuring of the group into four divisions should bring a clearer focus on the appropriate markets while the fruits of a capital investment programme have yet to be harvested.

All other things being equal, Aaronson should make at least £1.7 million this year. However, until the profitability of the group is more firmly assured, the shares are no more than a hold on fundamentals.



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Harwell's expertise up for sale

The Government's research laboratory at Harwell, Oxford, has broken into international markets by launching a private company to sell its successful computer software.

The Atomic Energy Research Establishment will now be able to reap some of the financial rewards which went previously to franchise holders. The company, Harwell Computer Power Ltd, will initially sell the "Status" software - an information gathering and storage system.

A spokesman for Harwell said the Status equipment had proved popular in the international market. It works like a giant filing cabinet.

Mr Malcolm Lewis-Jones, a leading figure in the software industry, has been appointed managing director.

The research establishment holds a third share in the new company with Rothschild, the banker, and Computer Power Group Holdings, an Australian company.

Coffee nations act to halt price fall

By Colin Narborough

The world's coffee growers and consumers will meet in emergency session in London this month in an attempt to limit exports of raw coffee and halt the fall in prices.

The move, decided at a board meeting this week of the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) - the regulatory body for consumer and producer countries - came in response to demands from the coffee-growing nations of the Third World.

They have seen export earnings suffer since quotas were suspended last February when it was feared that Brazil would be unable to meet its supply commitments because of drought.

Quotas have been used successfully for much of the past 20 years to keep prices within agreed ranges. In the early 1980s, the "green" or raw coffee price was held around a \$1.20 (79p) to \$1.40 band. Now it is just over \$1.

But new efforts to stabilize

the price are not likely to have immediate impact on shop prices, especially in Britain. Four fifths of British consumption is in the form of instant coffee where raw coffee accounts for only about half the shelf price.

Most market analysts foresee a new producer-consumer pact settling supermarket prices at about present levels or slightly higher, if a new accord on quotas is reached.

The London-based ICO aims to keep supply and demand in sufficient balance to prevent wild price shifts.

Producers from Africa, Latin America and Asia agreed at the weekend to a total export quota of 58 million bags for the year beginning in March.

The ICO board has not, however, committed itself to anything beyond calling a meeting of consumers for February 19-20, to be followed by a full council session the following week.

APPOINTMENTS

Planer Products: Mrs Pauline Adlam has been made a director.

The Stock Exchange: Mr Geoffrey Chamberlain becomes chairman of the Traded Options Committee.

British Airways Authority: Miss Katherine Howard has become finance director.

Kraft Frozen Foods: Mr John Froze becomes chief executive.

Permanent Insurance Company: Dr C J Earl is made a director.

Thomas Warrington & Sons: Mr Tony Longworth has been made financial director.

Mapping & Webb: Mr Edward Green becomes group managing director of Mapping & Webb Holdings, Garrard & Co., and Mapping & Webb Ltd.

Parkland Textile: Mr John Hanson will become group chief executive from May 1.

Commercial Union Properties: Mr M E Perkins has been made a director.

Dowry Group: Mr R S Moore is made financial director and Mr Chief Marshall Sir Thomas Kennedy a non-executive director.

North Broken Hill Holdings: Mr Peter Wade is made managing director and Mr Bill Paisley a director.

Grosvenor Venture Managers: Mr Michael Glover has joined the board and has also been made a director of Grosvenor Development Capital Management.



Mrs Pauline Adlam

Motorphone: Lord Morris has become financial director. GTE Marketing Services: Mr John O'Connell and Mrs Rosalind Allison-Culver have been made directors.

KTK (Newtown): Mr Philip Sewell becomes managing director.

Imro: Mr S J David Corran, Mr Brian Kellett and Mr John S Sadler become directors.

Trust: Mr Paul Manderson becomes a director and also a director of TR Trustees Corporation.

Sterling-Europe: Mr Eric E Barber has been made vice-chairman.

British Coal: Mr Bill Davis has become deputy regional director.

BTR: Mr Barry Romeril becomes finance director from April.

Perex: Mr John Flint is

made a non executive director.

London Daily News: Mr Ian McDonald is made production director.

Currency Brokers International: Mr Raymond Davies, Mr Spencer Freeman-Haynes and Mr Brian Hughes join the board.

Benlox Holdings: Mr Andrew Millar is chief executive. Serck Heat Transfer: Mr Kevin Wilson becomes managing director.

Insurance Brokers Registration Council: Mr Ronald Brierley is elected chairman. Help the Aged: Mrs Diane Trembath is named public relations director.

Ashby & Horner Team Contracts: Mr David Pickford has been made a non-executive director.

Helix Technology Group: Mr Howard Osborn becomes a director of Helix Software Consultants and Mr Jonathan Worrall a director of Helix Financial Systems.

Redier: Mr Paul James is named sales director. Information Services: Mr David Barr becomes development director.

Pirbright Southern: Mr Philip Laycock has been made regional managing director.

Imperial Building Services: Mr Roger Hughes has become chief executive.

PolyGram: Mr Michael Kuhn has been named senior vice-president.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Local Authority Deposits (%)		Local Authority Deposits (%)	
2 days 10%	7 days 10%	1 month 10%	3 months 10%
6 months 10%	12 months 10%		
Overnight High/Low 10%		Overnight High/Low 10%	
2 days 10%	7 days 10%	1 month 10%	3 months 10%
6 months 10%	12 months 10%		
Treasury Bills (%)		Treasury Bills (%)	
2 days 10%	7 days 10%	1 month 10%	3 months 10%
6 months 10%	12 months 10%		
Local Authority Bonds (%)		Local Authority Bonds (%)	
2 days 10%	7 days 10%	1 month 10%	3 months 10%
6 months 10%	12 months 10%		
Gold (%)		Gold (%)	
2 days 10%	7 days 10%	1 month 10%	3 months 10%
6 months 10%	12 months 10%		

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
Jan 19	Jan 19	Jan 19	Jan 19
Jan 20	Jan 20	Jan 20	Jan 20
Jan 21	Jan 21	Jan 21	Jan 21
Jan 22	Jan 22	Jan 22	Jan 22
Jan 23	Jan 23	Jan 23	Jan 23
Jan 24	Jan 24	Jan 24	Jan 24
Jan 25	Jan 25	Jan 25	Jan 25
Jan 26	Jan 26	Jan 26	Jan 26
Jan 27	Jan 27	Jan 27	Jan 27
Jan 28	Jan 28	Jan 28	Jan 28
Jan 29	Jan 29	Jan 29	Jan 29
Jan 30	Jan 30	Jan 30	Jan 30
Jan 31	Jan 31	Jan 31	Jan 31
Feb 1	Feb 1	Feb 1	Feb 1
Feb 2	Feb 2	Feb 2	Feb 2
Feb 3	Feb 3	Feb 3	Feb 3
Feb 4	Feb 4	Feb 4	Feb 4
Feb 5	Feb 5	Feb 5	Feb 5
Feb 6	Feb 6	Feb 6	Feb 6
Feb 7	Feb 7	Feb 7	Feb 7
Feb 8	Feb 8	Feb 8	Feb 8
Feb 9	Feb 9	Feb 9	Feb 9
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Feb 26	Feb 26	Feb 26	Feb 26
Feb 27	Feb 27	Feb 27	Feb 27
Feb 28	Feb 28	Feb 28	Feb 28
Feb 29	Feb 29	Feb 29	Feb 29
Feb 30	Feb 30	Feb 30	Feb 30

STOCKS, LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Set Val
Jan 19	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 20	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 21	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 22	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 23	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 24	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 25	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 26	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 27	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 28	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 29	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 30	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Jan 31	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 1	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 2	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 3	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 4	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 5	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 6	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 7	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 8	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 9	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 10	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 11	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 12	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 13	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 14	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 15	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 16	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 17	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 18	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 19	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 20	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 21	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 22	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 23	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 24	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 25	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 26	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 27	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 28	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 29	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000
Feb 30	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	1000

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling Index compared with 1975 was up at 88.5 (day's range 88.5-88.5)		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina austral	2,000.0-2,000.0	Ireland	1,450.0-1,450.0
Australia dollar	2,257.4-2,257.4	Malaysia	2,140.0-2,140.0
Bahian dinar	0,570.0-0,570.0	Malta	0,570.0-0,570.0
Brazil cruzeiro	0,000.0-0,000.0	Marshall Islands	0,000.0-0,000.0
Cypriot pound	0,750.0-0,750.0	Monaco	0,750.0-0,750.0
Denmark krone	0,136.0-0,136.0	Netherlands	0,136.0-0,136.0
France franc	0,166.0-0,166.0	New Zealand dollar	0,166.0-0,166.0
Germany mark	0,536.0-0,536.0	Portugal escudo	0,536.0-0,536.0
Greece drachma	0,000.0-0,000.0	Spain peseta	0,000.0-0,000.0
Hong Kong dollar	0,000.0-0,000.0	Sweden krona	0,000.0-0,000.0
India rupee	0,000.0-0,000.0	Switzerland franc	0,000.0-0,000.0
Indonesia rupiah	0,000.0-0,000.0	Taiwan dollar	0,000.0-0,000.0
Israel sheqel	0,000.0-0,000.0	Thailand baht	0,000.0-0,000.0
Italy lira	0,000.0-0,000.0	Yemen rial	0,000.0-0,000.0
Japan yen	0,000.0-0,000.0		
Kuwait dinar	0,000.0-0,000.0		
Malaysia dollar	0,000.0-0,000.0		
Malta dollar	0,000.0-0,000.0		
Mexico peso	0,000.0-0,000.0		
New Zealand dollar	0,000.0-0,000.0		
Saudi Arabia riyal	0,000.0-0,000.0		
South Africa rand	0,000.0-0,000.0		
Sri Lanka rupee	0,000.0-0,000.0		
Taiwan dollar	0,000.0-0,000.0		
Thailand baht	0,000.0-0,000.0		
Yemen rial	0,000.0-0,000.0		

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Law Report February 6 1987

Inadmissible Duty to

ment: if only the ordinary
sailor of human recollection
was relied on, that went to the
weight to be attached to and not
to the admissibility of the
statement and was, therefore, a
matter for the jury.

However, here again, there
might be special features that
might give rise to the possibility
of error. In the instant case there
was evidence that the deceased
died drunk to excess.

Another example would be
where the identification was

Smith and Others v Littlewoods Organisation Ltd
Mabroo v Littlewoods Organisation Ltd

Before Lord Keith of Kinnel, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord Mackay of Clashfern and Lord Goff of Chieveley

[Speeches February 5]

Where it had not been a probable consequence of a disused cinema being vacant and not lockfast that vandals would

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUST

unq.	95.5
unq.	95.7
unq.	95.5
Vol: 28	
st vol: 2	
e Contract	
r kilo	
Open	Close
unq.	97.0
unq.	99.0
unq.	97.5
Vol: 0	

COMMODITIES

COPPER GRADE A
Cash 883.50-886.00
Three Months . 905.00-905.50

STANDARD CATHODES
Cash 861.00-882.00
Three Months . 884.00-885.50
Vol NR
Tone Irkto

LEAD
Cash 313.50-314.50
Three Months , 308.50-309.00
Vol 3100
Tone Steady

ZINC HIGH GRADE
Cash settlement price 486.00-487.00
Three Months 480.50-481.00
Vol volume of contracts 4025
Tone price of covering Barely Steady

SILVER-LARGE
Cash 367.50-368.50

7.25	114.90
8.85	116.40
11.25	und.
10.70	100.00
12.80	102.85
15.80	105.65
----- 579	
	21

Open	Close
108.5	109.9
159.0	156.5
195.0	193.0

FLEX
phones Ltd Dry
\$10 per point)

Low	Close
755.0	758.0
845.0	847.0
740.0	743.5
754.0	754.0

Open Int: 2142

Accent still on French as three former leading players preview opening games in five nations championship

A trying time for national pride

Australian way represents the ideal approach



Williams: 'Scotland are playing in the Australian style'

Tomorrow the 1987 five nations championship begins in Dublin and Paris, a more than usually significant championship since it is, in part, preparation for Rugby

Union's first World Cup this summer. DAVID HANDS, Rugby Correspondent, talks to three distinguished former internationals about prospects for the championship: J.P.R. Williams, the former Welsh full back and captain, who played 55 times for his country between 1969 and 1981; Bill Beaumont, who made 34 appearances at lock for England between 1975 and 1982 and led his country 19 times, more than any other player; and Ollie Campbell, the Irish stand-off half who made 22 appearances for his country and whose points-scoring records still stand.



Beaumont: 'Anyone who beats France has a bonus'

There was general consensus among the three former international players whose views I sought on the long-term objectives of the game that the current Australian approach represented the ideal (David Hands writes).

The three express the hope that the domestic international season will end with all four home countries playing with style and entertainment.

Beaumont: Australia are all the rage now, but I don't think they do anything different from what we did in London Welsh and Wales during the early 1970s.

They aim to keep the ball moving. What they have shown is an ability to run off the ball very well, and their support is excellent.

I'm not saying support play here isn't good, but people tend to overrun the ball. In Britain we have tended to go overboard on the set pieces, trying to achieve total domination up front. It makes it very difficult to attack because the opposition allow for your winning the ball, and you may be discouraged from using your flair outside.

I don't think the five nations will be different because of the World Cup. Players will be playing for their places, but you have to take each game as it comes — the world cup isn't the immediate priority.

Campbell: There's been an amazing evolution in Irish rugby during the 1980s. There has never been a more fulfilled bunch of guys than those playing for Ireland at the moment. Any material reward would be of no consequence.

But I watched the centenary matches last year, and I wondered if it was a fair comparison between guys who

would love to see more of Deals Charvet in a full championship. He looks out of this world.

Beaumont: Anyone who beats France has a bonus. We know how they can play and, before Jacques Fouroux became coach, they played in what we now regard as the Australian style. It's a simple game, a pack of forwards doing the basics well, the half backs move the ball quickly and everyone gets in and supports. It's worth remembering too that internationals can revolve round referees and there will be a French referee in Dublin tomorrow and in Cardiff, when Wales play Ireland.

Williams: Rugby in France is particularly strong at the moment. Psychologically their win over New Zealand will have been a great boost and some of their club play in the Masters tournament in Toulouse was breath-taking. They must be the force to contend with.

Campbell: France have been the strongest team for five or six years and who have they done in that time? You wonder when France are actually going to show their full potential — they really only do it in fits and starts. I'm a very big fan of Philippe Sella but I

Paul Dean is very important to them — he's going into his third season, he's the pulse at the heart of the team. Coupled with Kiernan and Mullin they are a threesome who have done much to develop Irish style and yet I think they have so much more to offer.

Beaumont: The Irish backs move the ball well, there is creativity in what they do. Their repertoire is great and they like to use it. They vary where MacNeill comes in, Dean's a good distributor, and they have two good wing forwards, Matthews and Carr — good footballers, telepathic in how they play the game.

I don't think they have a great presence in the front five but Syd Millar has spent an enormous amount of time on their scrumming. If Ireland can get fifty-fifty ball they will always have a chance.

Colin Dexter will take over on the Leicester wing from Rory Underwood for the match with London Scottish at Richmond on Saturday. The other change from the team named to meet Rostyn Park in the subsequently postponed John Player Cup tie last week is at fly-half, where Jez Harris comes in for club captain Les Cusworth, who will be a spectator in Dublin.

Essai: Tries, the Fijian captain and No. 8, has joined Pontypool and the club are hopeful he will be available for the rest of the season. He was the subject of a tussle earlier in the season between Pontypool and Cardiff. He then opted for Cardiff but never played in the senior side.

Steve Thomas is unavailable for Coventry's trip to Waterloo on Sunday and Andy Savage

returns to scrum half, partnering teenager Rob Rowan, who made a good impression on his first-team debut against Lichfield on Wednesday. Other changes see the return of captain Lee Johnson at loose head prop and back row forwards Dick Travers and Graham Robbins.

London Welsh will introduce a new No. 8, Mark Lewis, to their back row against Gosforth on Saturday. Lewis, 6ft 4in, is a 20-year-old student at St Mary's College, Twickenham, and a former Welsh Secondary Schools cap. Colin Price, who has had chickenpox, returns to lead the side at fly half. Stuart Russell, who has been cleared by his eye specialist to play, is ending his operation for a detached retina, has been picked to play for the Dragons, the club's third team.

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

Schools have varied regimes with regard to the Lent term. Many, the Ampleforth College, have their sights clearly fixed on next year's team. But this does not wholly devalue the worth of Harrogate Colts' fine victory against the college, whom they defeated, immediately following the freeze, by 36 points to 16.

The Colts kept the game tight, while Ampleforth ran the ball at every possible opportunity. The college led 12-6 at half-time but the edge Harrogate Colts had with regard to physical presence proved crucial, bringing victory by four goals and three tries, to four tries. Harrogate Colts have won 15 out of 18 matches and have won their last 13 games.

Byrnes, from Bridgend, achieved a notable win when they defeated Llandoverly 14-0. They are unbeaten and among their most pleasing wins were their victories over Cyffwrth and

Scotland: tailored to success

Williams: I think Scotland have shown in a number of games over the last five years that they are the nearest of the four home countries to playing in the Australian style. They have been able to play Iain Paterson in the second row without any problem and probably have more ball players in the pack than the other countries. They can hold their own in the tight as well; Australia and New Zealand have never tried to dominate up front, they hold their own and get around the field.

Scotland have a very constructive back row which is another facet where we lag behind the southern hemisphere. We seem obsessed with size in Britain. If you look at the great back rows, the Welsh one I played with for example, two of them — John Taylor and Dai Morris — were smaller than me. You have to have one big man in the back row, possibly two, certainly not three.

Campbell: Scotland, along with Ireland, seem to have the most settled side. They are sure about the way they want to play and even if they started with a defeat, I don't think there would be a big shake-up. Derrick Grant, the coach, knows what he's after. I've always enjoyed Scottish rugby, there is always excitement in any match they are involved with, which is what players and spectators want.

I'm sure John Rutherford will have a real buzz with the World Cup coming up but it will be interesting to see how Doug Wylie gets on. Basically he is an out-half, not a centre, but the

selectors wouldn't change someone without being sure of his pedigree. I've only seen him once or twice but he looks promising and he couldn't be playing outside a better guy than Rutherford. Mind you, I only played in the centre three times for Ireland and it was three times too many. I was a bit older and felt uncomfortable.

Beaumont: I think Scotland will play the same game as they have played for the last few years. I'm amazed how well they do. I was also amazed how badly England played against them last year. If England had played a tight scrumming game and used the frontum I'm sure they would have won but they played into Scotland's hands. I always think Scotland are brittle. They play to the best of their ability and they have a squad of about 20 players whom they keep permutating.

In key positions they have world class players. Iain Millar holds the scrum together. They have good half backs — Rutherford doesn't avoid his rugby, he gets right for the international. They are well coached, they have a good captain and they are highly motivated. That counts for a lot. You don't have to play to the greatest tactics in the world and sides give away penalties against Scotland because they are not used to playing ruckings. Colin Deans will end up breaking all the hooking records. He could well have had eight Lions Internationals, he obviously captains extremely well, keeps the motivation going, leads from the front. I always admire that in a player.

England: a test of character

Williams: England are trying to find their identity. They have no definable style and they strike me as being in the doldrums. Rory Underwood is a world-class player but after him you have to look very hard for outstanding individuals.

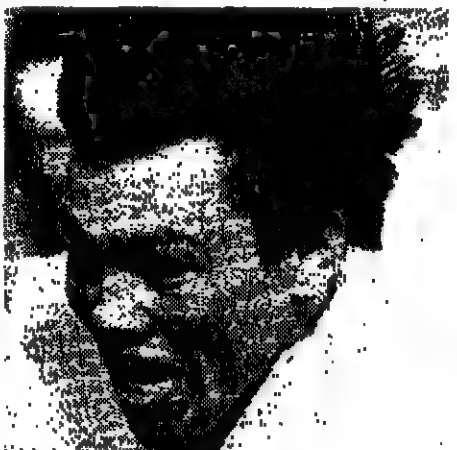
Campbell: In England you seem to need someone who sits down early in the season to decide on the style of play, someone with the strength of a Mick Doyle — to be very firm, decide on the style and pick the team accordingly. There are just so many players. Doyle's approach first of all was to ask the squad players how they wanted to play. They said they wanted to have a cut and play a running game. The responsibility has been the players' even more than Doyle's.

It will be interesting to see how Rob Andrew gets on. He has been down in Australia with Alan Jones and we must see how he has matured. It's difficult for a player like him, who has had to ignore so much criticism of his play. It's a test of character for him. I hope he does well because I think he's a very talented out-half. He looked so natural in his early years and he has the ability to play his own game. England seem to have their sights set more firmly on the World Cup and it's healthy that people should have different objectives. They may have a difficult Five Nations but could reach their peak in the World Cup.

Beaumont: I'm a bit disappointed at how things have gone for England. I would like to

have seen Jon Webb get a chance. They had the divisional championship and the trial and I don't think they really used them. It's a workmanlike side. The backs have an exciting look about them, I just hope they move the ball. I would like to see the backs standing a lot closer together and give the wings space on the outside. Offer them space and then support them.

At the moment England's game is so stereotyped. They have tried to put Bath's style together with the North's but I think opposition teams would worry more about the northern style than Bath's approach.



On a wing and a prayer: Rory Underwood

Wales: signals of a revival

Williams: Wales are trying to build themselves round probably the most exciting player in Britain, Jonathan Davies, and there are some skilful three-quarters. They have to be encouraged, not to be afraid to use their ability. British international rugby is a bit like most sport in Britain, negative rather than positive. Midfield players are told that the main thing is not to make a mistake — like footballers being told not to give away a goal, rather than concentrating on scoring them. Wales have picked two good wings, probably the quickest in British rugby, and it would be a shame if they did not get the ball.

Campbell: Jonathan Davies is the one guy everyone will keep an eye on. He has come a long way in a season or two. But I don't think Wales have picked a team that is really going to help Davies. It may force him to do more than he really wants to. He faces a really tough championship.

Beaumont: Originally Wales had the best chance of winning the triple crown because they have Ireland and England at home. But the weather hasn't done them any favours by making them open in France where they haven't won since 1975 and if they lose

tomorrow they have a month's break before starting again. It makes it rather a fragmented season for them.

Their chances would have been better if they had picked Phil May at lock because he's a good grafting forward. The back row looks well balanced but they were probably disappointed not to have had King and Bowen fit enough for consideration. They are both very good runners but I'm surprised they have used the delay to pick Devereux ahead of Bidgood after only one game back.

They have the best half-back combination in the four home countries



Poetry in perpetual motion: Jonathan Davies

Ireland: potential to excite

Williams: Ireland have the potential to play beautiful rugby but they play like that because they haven't got the pack to win enough possession. I like the Irish centres, they have a lot of pace, they are not afraid to go for the half break and they helped towards a tremendous victory against Romania.

It's pretty difficult to score 60 points at international level against anyone. They could be very exciting.

Campbell: Ireland played a raw, destructive game for many years. But the whole approach has changed in a very short time. It actually happened in one season and we haven't seen the best of this Irish side yet. A lot of them are coming to their peak now — Ringland, Crossan, Dean, right through the back line there are a few fellows who can run a bit.

Mick Doyle has been fortunate in a way. He couldn't have played this way had he come in five or six years ago because the players weren't there to carry out his methods.

There's a very big interest in rugby because of our success, after such a long barren period. Ireland is a small country, only four million

Effervescent figure chastened

From Gerald Davies Paris

The hatches came down on the charter flight which took the Welsh team from Cardiff to Orly airport in Paris, and in so doing the Welsh Rugby Union will be hoping that it will also bring to a close a brief chapter of potential embarrassment to them surrounding their recently reported disclosures of Jonathan Davies, the Welsh stand-off half.

These comments concerned his general views about the players' standing in an amateur game which, on the surface, may appear to become more professional and how these interests may be in conflict; the relationship between those who play the game and those who administer it; and how these should be improved, as well as his own purported interests in any rugby league offers which may

come his way, and the interest he himself might show in such financial offers once the World Cup is over in the summer.

In a lengthy statement to coincide directly with the team's departure yesterday, the Welsh Rugby Union said that: "The general committee has considered comments allegedly made by Jonathan Davies of Neath RFC and published in a recent issue of the sportsweek magazine." Davies apologises for any distress he may have caused and trusts that he will be allowed to get on with playing rugby union football. The committee have accepted his explanation and now regards the matter as closed.

The hope now is that Davies, and all the others involved in the team preparation, can concentrate on the immediate matter in hand — the match against France tomorrow.

Davies, an effervescent and confident figure, may feel a little chastened after this awkward period in a developing career, a regret that he has spoken so freely. He feels that, perhaps, the comments he made may have appeared more strongly worded and adamant and not quite in the context that he intended them to appear.

He has written a letter as well as having had a meeting with the officers of the union to explain his position. That the impression has grown that he is soliciting for professional offers from rugby league clubs is simply not the case. Happily the union is satisfied with his explanation.

More disturbing from his point of view, too, is that an advertisement went out on a local commercial radio, promoting the sensational disclosures. The voice which carried

over the airwaves strongly suggested that he was the one who did so. It was not the case and has put him in a thoroughly embarrassing position. This matter now has been passed on to his solicitors who will be dealing with it in due course. For the time being the episode has come to an uneasy rest.

The team is settled in the quiet surroundings at the Trianon Palace Hotel in Versailles, a place where another embellished Welshman, Lloyd George, managed to assist in restoring some peace so many decades ago.

It will be hoped that Jonathan Davies, in an entirely different context of course, after seeing a diplomatic solution to the problem, will come out a little wiser and hardened to the ways of the world and more content, but with all his flamboyant playing wizardry still intact.



Campbell: 'England have their sights set on the World Cup'



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SKIING

Swiss reaffirm strength as Schneider collects the record seventh gold

Crane-Montana (Reuter) — Vreni Schneider won the women's giant slalom yesterday to earn the devastating Swiss team a record seventh gold medal at the world Alpine ski championships.

Schneider, disappointed at twice finishing fourth in earlier events, clinched the title with an inspired first run. She clocked a two-run aggregate of 2min 21.22sec to beat Mateja Svet, the Yugoslav teenager, by 0.56sec.

Maria Walliser, of Switzerland, the downhill and super-giant slalom champion, added a bronze to her medal collection, moving up from eighth place after the first leg.

Switzerland, who have won seven of the eight events so far, broke the record of six golds set by Austria in 1962 and equalled by France four years later.

The hosts have been almost swamped in an avalanche of medals. Their tally of 13 is now only three short of France's 1966 record and

there are still two races to go, the men's and women's slaloms at the weekend. Schneider, World Cup giant slalom champion, opened up a lead of 0.88sec over the tenacious Svet on the first run and looked to have her gold almost in the bag.

But the Yugoslav, bronze medal winner in the Super-G, gave all she had on the second run with the fastest time and forced Schneider to attack for the title. An elated Schneider, who responded with the second best time of the final leg, said: "Now I have tears of joy after years of disappointment in the other races. I was rather nervous at the start of the second leg. I decided to come off line a bit where it was harder and after that I had a good run."

Svet said: "I tried to go for a win but Vreni's first run advantage when she skied so fantastically was just too much for me." Walliser thwarted compatriot, Michela Figini, who was fourth, for the

third time in the championships after leaving her with silver in the downhill and Super-G. Figini was third after the first run with Walliser trailing her by 0.62 after a terrible error near the bottom of the icy piste almost sent her flying off the course. Left with no chance of a third gold, Walliser skied a controlled second run to move up five places.

RESULTS: 1. V Schneider (Switzerland) 2:21.22; 2. M Svet (Yugoslavia) 2:21.78; 3. M Walliser (Switzerland) 2:22.34; 4. M Figini (Switzerland) 2:22.90; 5. S Pernstetter (Austria) 2:23.02; 6. M Knecht (Austria) 2:23.07; 7. M Tschann (Austria) 2:23.07; 8. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.10; 9. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.10; 10. M Gern (Austria) 2:23.11; 11. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11; 12. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11; 13. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11; 14. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11; 15. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11; 16. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11; 17. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11; 18. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11; 19. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11; 20. C Gassner (Austria) 2:23.11.

Royal appeal

The Princess of Wales is to attend a fund-raising dinner for Gloucestershire County Cricket Club at the Town Hall in Cheltenham on May 8. The dinner will feature a £100,000 appeal for a new cricket school to be built at the club's headquarters in Bristol.

GOLF

Pavin is riding a sea of confidence

From John Ballantine, Hawaii

Corey Pavin is riding on the crest of a fine wave of confidence at the moment. Like the surfers and canoeists of Waikiki Beach, the little Californian who learned his trade in Europe in 1983 knows exactly the right moves to make and he has a supreme belief in his technique. As a striker he is not in the same class as, say, Payne Stewart or Mac O'Grady. But Pavin's method works and he teed off early in yesterday's opening round in defence of his Hawaiian Open title certain that he could either retain it or go close to doing so and so lengthen his lead at the top of the money list.

"I'm one of the few players who can work the ball left to right, right to left, high or low," Pavin said. "It's important to be able to do that here at Waialeale where either the trade or the

kona winds are blowing. You can't let the wind take control, you have to be able to use it effectively."

This is just the way Tom Watson used to talk in the seventies before he lost his confidence, especially on the greens. "I want to be able to move the ball at will," Watson was fond of saying, "and I want to be able to do it as well as any player has ever done." Cynics might ask, and where is Watson today? Golf, they may say, is not a game that can ever be completely mastered, it is far too

chancey and complex. Pavin appears to be at least half-way towards mastery; he believes full control is possible and we all know how big a part the mind plays in this difficult game.



Baker in the dough: now he can get on with his game

Baker's slice of cake

By Mitchell Platits

Peter Baker yesterday signed a sponsorship package worth a minimum of £100,000 over the next four years during which time he could develop into one of Britain's leading golfers.

Baker, aged 19, who turned professional last August after an exciting amateur career, is to have his affairs handled by Peter Lloyd, of Prosport Management.

Lloyd, a former scratch golfer himself, has linked Johnson and Firth Brown PLC, the UK engineering group, Deloitte Haskins and Sells, the Manchester-based international chartered accountants, and Deloitte Sports to provide Baker with a complete package.

"All Peter's expenses are guaranteed over the next four years, so the entire bill must be worth a six-figure sum to him," Lloyd said. "He will also be

provided with a car and I have other contracts in the pipeline. More importantly, Peter's affairs will be professionally handled from A to Z so that he can get on with playing golf."

"We've signed Peter's family for a long time and he's a tremendous lad. But I want him to keep his feet firmly on the ground. A lot of youngsters with tremendous potential fall by the wayside in sport. But I believe Peter will make it. There are certainly no excuses for him now as he can go out and play golf without any worries."

Baker, who won the Carriis Boys Trophy in 1983 and 1985 and the Brabazon Trophy in 1985, represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup. He launched his professional career in style by leading the German Open after the first round.

Bishop's move checked

From Paul Martin, Cape Town

Ian Young, the Scottish professional, aged 24, has climbed Table Mountain, which rises majestically above this course, plunged into the Indian and Atlantic oceans on either side, and driven through the Cape vineyards, sampling their wines. It is to these natural and man-made delights that he ascribes his relaxed frame of mind, which he believes is the key to his success this week.

He has three after two rounds of the South African Open championships after rounds of 70 and 69, including 12 birdies all told. A contrasting formula for success has been adopted by Wayne Westner, a long-time South African of previously mediocre distinction. He has taken a six stroke lead over Young, scoring 66 and 67, and as the second-placed Fulton Allen exclaimed: "made the rest of us look stupid."

A woman approached Westner during a recent moment of failure and convinced him that she could alter his mental attitude, to which end he took last week off competitive golf. She is the same woman who accompanied Nick Faldo to the US Masters some time ago to redirect his mind, after the British player's visit to the Sun City Million Dollar Challenge. Let us hope she achieves more with Westner than she apparently did with Faldo.

"You only play a bad shot when your mental picture is wrong. I now have the right picture almost every time," enthused Westner, who makes Gary Player sound like a pessimist. If attitude is the key, Ian Mosey has no chance. He lies joint fifth on 141, but admits: "It does not mean a great deal. The European tour is my mainstay. I don't get the same motivation level here. It's just a pleasant way of spending the English winter."

The mental side of the game yesterday proved the undoing of another Briton, Simon Bishop, in contention for the last five holes, bogged four of the last five holes, and took three putts from 12 feet on the last green; whereupon he solemnly tore his black glove into pieces in front of the astonished gathering, and hurled the errant club into his bag.

"I hate slow greens, and these are awful," moaned the bearded professional from Bishop's Stortford. "My mind let me down in Europe last year, and it's been good out here — until I let it slip today."

He wonders whose cure he should try — Westner's "psychologist", or Young's wine, beach and mountains. **FIRST ROUND LEADERS:** (South African unless stated) 66 W Westner, 67 F Allen, 68 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 69 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 70 S Bishop, 71 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 72 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 73 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 74 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 75 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 76 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 77 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 78 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 79 J Dlamini (Switzerland), 80 J Dlamini (Switzerland).

Bale impressive as he makes his exit

From Paul Martin, Cape Town

Stuart Bale, the Davis Cup "hopeful", failed to reach the final of the LTA men's winter satellite tournament at Queen's Club yesterday. The big-serving 23-year-old Londoner — the last British survivor — went down 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 in a fiercely-fought semi-final to Magnus Gustavsson, the Swede who on Wednesday had knocked out Stephen Shaw.

In a desperately close affair, Bale was outplayed by Gustavsson, from Göteborg, won the match on a tie-break in the third and deciding set after a two-hour match. The first set went to Gustavsson after the Swedish player, who is ranked nineteenth in his country, broke Shaw's service with the help of two fortunate net calls in the eighth game.

Bale hit back to win the second, but in the deciding set he broke but dropped three points on his service to lose. "I thought I was playing well enough to win, but it was his

ground strokes that beat me in the end," said Bale. "He had luck on his side at crucial moments."

It was, however, another impressive performance from Bale which will strengthen his claim for inclusion in the Davis Cup squad for the first round tie in Mexico next month. The consolation for Bale's defeat came with the award of a wild card for the second satellite tournament at Telford next week, along with David Felgate (Essex) Michael Walker (Wales) and Chris Bailey (Norfolk).

In today's final Gustavsson will meet the top seed, Peter Fleming, from United States, who beat the Frenchman, Olivier Delatre 6-3, 7-5, in the other semi-final.

RESULTS: Singles semi-finals: P Fleming (US) 6-3, 7-5; M Gustavsson (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; A Norrman (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; S Shaw (GB) 6-3, 7-5. Doubles semi-finals: S Bishop (Essex) and M Walker (Wales) 6-3, 7-5; P Fleming (US) and C Bailey (Norfolk) 6-3, 7-5. Singles consolation: S Bishop (Essex) 6-3, 7-5; M Walker (Wales) 6-3, 7-5; P Fleming (US) 6-3, 7-5; C Bailey (Norfolk) 6-3, 7-5.

Honeymoon over

It was a mixed up, jumbled up kind of a day at the Ebel US professional indoor championships here. We were told that John McEnroe had been invited to play the Davis Cup tie against Paraguay next month, but McEnroe said he could not make it because of other commitments.

Jimmy Connors said he might be prepared to retake the stage now that the management had changed, but he had not been invited. David Gilbert, the No. 3 seed, who was scheduled to play Connors in Saturday's semi-final, lost to Brod Dyke, and Mats Wilander — whom the computer suggested would win the event — instead lost to straight sets in his first match back since marriage a month ago.

His conqueror, the fellow Swede, Jan Gunnarsson, could be seen in the early hours of the morning enjoying a celebratory beer in the tournament hotel's hospitality suite, while Martin Blackman — who had become yesterday's hero after failing to extend a run that had taken him through qualifying to the second round — was labelled him at 16-years-old as America's great new hope — wandered in, juggled some oranges, and left as quietly as he came.

Although Wilander and Gilbert fell by the wayside, the crowd were more than content to see old Connors and a subdued McEnroe sail smoothly through to the third round. Connors looked superb, and McEnroe looked better.

If Connors, who had not played since October, was rusty then he certainly did not show it as he defeated Sergio Casal 6-2, 7-5. McEnroe then showed he is ready for the challenge of a new year as he demolished Met Purrell 6-2, 6-1 with a wonderful all-round performance.

SINGLES: Second round (US unless stated): Connors (Swe) 6-2, 7-5; Wilander (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Dyke (Aus) 6-3, 7-5; Gilbert (GB) 6-3, 7-5; P Fleming (US) 6-3, 7-5; M Gustavsson (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; A Norrman (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; S Shaw (GB) 6-3, 7-5; C Bailey (Norfolk) 6-3, 7-5.

DOUBLE: Second round (US unless stated): Connors (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Wilander (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Dyke (Aus) 6-3, 7-5; Gilbert (GB) 6-3, 7-5; P Fleming (US) 6-3, 7-5; M Gustavsson (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; A Norrman (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; S Shaw (GB) 6-3, 7-5; C Bailey (Norfolk) 6-3, 7-5.

CONSOLE: Second round (US unless stated): Connors (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Wilander (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Dyke (Aus) 6-3, 7-5; Gilbert (GB) 6-3, 7-5; P Fleming (US) 6-3, 7-5; M Gustavsson (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; A Norrman (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; S Shaw (GB) 6-3, 7-5; C Bailey (Norfolk) 6-3, 7-5.

CONSOLE: Second round (US unless stated): Connors (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Wilander (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Dyke (Aus) 6-3, 7-5; Gilbert (GB) 6-3, 7-5; P Fleming (US) 6-3, 7-5; M Gustavsson (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; A Norrman (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; S Shaw (GB) 6-3, 7-5; C Bailey (Norfolk) 6-3, 7-5.

CONSOLE: Second round (US unless stated): Connors (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Wilander (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; Dyke (Aus) 6-3, 7-5; Gilbert (GB) 6-3, 7-5; P Fleming (US) 6-3, 7-5; M Gustavsson (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; A Norrman (Swe) 6-3, 7-5; S Shaw (GB) 6-3, 7-5; C Bailey (Norfolk) 6-3, 7-5.

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TENNIS



Backhand to success: Peter Fleming on his way to Queen's final (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

ICE SKATING

The night that the music stopped

From Michael Coleman, Sarajevo

The grey pollution blanketing Sarajevo is lit by the brilliant blue of the ice-skating up at the Zetra stadium here, a brilliance to which the Soviet entrants are, as usual, the main contributors. Nothing coming from the Soviet camp is orthodox. All of them, skaters and coaches alike, are, when on ice, as individual as their society allegedly is not.

Take Wednesday night for example. A 15-year-old Bosnian, their 15-year-old Bosnian, was on ice with her fellow-Muscovite partner Sergei Grinkov going for European gold, awarded to the skater who wins the most medals in pairs skating in the world. The Leningraders Yelena Volkova and her husband Oleg Vasilyev alongside Larisa Seltsneva and Oleg Makarov.

Grordeva and Grinkov flung themselves into a stunning routine. Grinkov, whose twentieth birthday it was, warmed to his task, flinging his featherweight partner into the numbers prepared for months before. Then the music stopped.

At first we thought the tape had broken and were to learn later it was the decision of the referee Ben Wright, of the United States, who spotted Grinkov's trouser elastic had broken and was trailing. A whistle was blown to attract the skaters' attention.

But Grordeva and Grinkov kept on going, churning out all the numbers to no music but keeping in good time like an orchestra without a conductor.

They relayed off the full five minutes, slid in salute before the judges and then left. It had been worth marks of 5.8 and better but they got none.

Wright ordered that they skate again, but after their Soviet rival had been disqualified, the skaters were ordered to stop.

On came a confused Volkova and Vasilyev and made immediate errors, she falling on their introductory parallel triple-toe loops and appearing unsettled throughout. Next on, Seltsneva and Makarov had had time to relax and presented the eventual gold-winning number.

We waited for Miss Grordeva to re-appear but she did not. Wright announced they would be disqualified unless they took the ice within two minutes. The stadium clock went the full two rounds and then word came they had withdrawn as they were drained both physically and emotionally.

Grordeva and Makarov had taken the pairs crown back to Leningrad.

RESULTS: Women's compulsory figure: 1. K Volkova (USSR), 2. G Grordeva (USSR), 3. G Grordeva (USSR), 4. G Grordeva (USSR), 5. G Grordeva (USSR), 6. G Grordeva (USSR), 7. G Grordeva (USSR), 8. G Grordeva (USSR), 9. G Grordeva (USSR), 10. G Grordeva (USSR).

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RESULTS: Women's compulsory figure: 1. K Volkova (USSR), 2. G

